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rm 83

PF

56,268

VOLUME 1.

REDGRAVE, MICHAEL SCUDAMORE

20112

0138

REDGRAVE, RACHEL

See Also

| Offi<br>or<br>Serial N | ion | Date          | Officer<br>or<br>Serial N | iection | Date          | Offic<br>Ser | Date    |
|------------------------|-----|---------------|---------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|---------|
|                        |     | - 9 MAY 1962  |                           |         | 3-4 DEC 1968  |              | 11/5/24 |
|                        |     | - 9 MAY 1962  | EL                        | URG     |               |              |         |
|                        |     | - 9 MAY 1962  |                           |         |               |              |         |
|                        |     | - 5 JUN 1962  |                           |         | - 3 MAR 1969  |              | 1/1/06  |
|                        |     | - 8 JUN 1962  |                           |         | SI JUN 1969   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 3 FEB 1963  |                           |         | 1 SEP 1969    |              | 41      |
|                        |     | - 14 FEB 1963 |                           |         | 1 OCT 1969    |              | 31/1/13 |
|                        |     | - 26 AUG 1963 |                           |         | - 1 FEB 1974  |              |         |
|                        |     | - 6 AUG 1963  |                           |         | 12.3.74       |              |         |
|                        |     | - 30 AUG 1963 |                           |         | 14/3 MAR 1974 |              |         |
|                        |     | - 10 AUG 1963 |                           |         | 12 MAR 1974   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 19 SEP 1963 |                           |         | 18 MAR 1975   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 8 OCT 1963  |                           |         | 261 NOV 1975  |              |         |
|                        |     | - 6 DEC 1965  |                           |         | 1 NOV 27      |              |         |
|                        |     | - 8 DEC 1965  |                           |         | V 1983        |              |         |
|                        |     | - 2 MAR 1966  |                           |         | 1983          |              |         |
|                        |     | - 26 JUL 1967 |                           |         | 1985          |              |         |
|                        |     | - 2 JUL 1967  |                           |         | 31 OCT 1989   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 5 DEC 1967  |                           |         | 13 NOV 1989   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 24 OCT 1968 |                           |         | 14.9.91       |              |         |
|                        |     | - 30 OCT 1968 |                           |         | 26 SEP 1991   |              |         |
|                        |     | - 27 NOV 1968 |                           |         |               |              |         |

PF

56,268

VOLUME 1.



1.

29.10.40. From B.B.C., forwarding cutting re. Michael REDGRAVE.

1a.

2.

*B4(a)*

2.

*I see. Can you give me any information about Redgrave's activities?*

*C.I.  
4.11.40.*

*Shang.*

3.

*C.I. It is perfectly all right to employ Michael Redgrave. He made a fool of himself when he signed this manifesto, about which he clearly knows nothing.*

*B4. 7. 11. 40.*

*Rogers + + + + +*

4.

13.11.40. To B.B.C., in reply to 1a, re. Michael REDGRAVE.

4a.

5.

14.11.40. Photostat of M/11 report re. People's Convention, mentioning Michael REDGRAVE

5a

6.

14.11.40. Cross ref: to minute from B.5.b. to B.4.a. re. Peoples Vigilance Cttee:, mentioning M. REDGRAVE.

6a

7.

14.11.40. Extract from minute from B.5b to B.4a. re. Peoples Convention.

*P.T. Over.*



8.

16.11.40. Copy of minute from B.4. to B.5.b. re. M.REDGRAVE.

8a.

9.

26.11.40. Extract from B.5.b.report re. M.REDGRAVE, in reply to 8a.

9a.

10.

27.1.41. Photostat of M/11 report re. Unity Theatre, mentioning M.REDGRAVE.

10a

11.

3.2.41. Photostat of M/11 report re. M.REDGRAVE & Unity Theatre.

11a.

12.

27.2.41. Photostat of M/11 report re. UNITY THEATRE, mentioning M.REDGRAVE.

12a

13.

8.3.41. Press Cutting from Daily Sketch re. M.REDGRAVE.

13a

14.

17.3.41. Extract from S.B.Report on meeting of National Council for Civil Liberties, mentioning M.REDGRAVE.

14a

15.

18.3.41. Extract from S.B.Report re. Peoples' Convention, mentioning M.REDGRAVE.

15a



16.

- 4.4.41. Extract from Source ? report re. C.P.matters, mentioning M.REDGRAVE. 16z.
- 4.10.41. Extract from Source ? report, mentioning M.REDGRAVE. 16a.

17.

- 28.5.43. Int: letter from Daily Worker to H.McSHANE, mentioning M.REDGRAVE. 17a

18

- 29.6.43. Extract from S.B.Report re. British Soviet Unity and Russia To-Day Society Demonstation, mentioning M.REDGRAVE. 18a

19.

- 7.10.43. Int: letter from Michael REDGRAVE to Ted WILLIS. 19a

20.

- 2.6.44. Extract from S.B.Report on Actors' Group of the C.P., mentioning M.REDGRAVE. 20a

21.

- 23.7.44. From Air Ministry re vetting of REDGRAVE. 21a.

22

- 2.11.44 Extract from S.B. report mentioning Michael REDGRAVE 22a



23.

12.4.49 B.1.a./B.4.c. minute re Michael REDGRAVE and "RENEGADE" 23a

24.

27.4.49 To S.B. re 23a 24a

25.

7.8.51. From S.B. report re REDGRAVE. 25a.

26.

23.10.51. Note re Mr. Thistlethwaite's visit to Cambridge mentioning REDGRAVE. 26a

27.

19. 11. 51. Cross reference from an int. to Professor BERNAL from UNITY THEATRE SOCIETY LTD. ment. REDGRAVE. 27a

28.

20. 6.52. Int. letter from REDGRAVE to STRACHAN, Seretse KHAMA campaign Cttee 28a



MINUTE SHEET

|           |  |      |
|-----------|--|------|
|           | 29.  |      |
| 15.8.52.  | Ext. from S.B. report ment. REDGRAVE.                    | 29a. |
|           | 30.  |      |
| 29.6.53.  | Int. letter to ROTHSTEIN from REDGRAVE.                  | 30a. |
|           | 31.  |      |
| 1.54.     | X.Ref. to F.4/MK/12519 source report re Rachel REDGRAVE. | 31a. |
| 9.11.54.  | Ext. from F.4. source report re REDGRAVE.                | 31b. |
|           | 32.  |      |
| 16.11.54. | F.I.A. Note ment Rachel KEMPSON.                         | 32a. |
|           | 33.  |      |
| 30.11.54. | S. Form 252A to S.B. re Rachel KEMPSON.                  | 33a. |
|           | 34.  |      |
| 2.54.     | S. Form 283 to S.B.                                      | 34a. |
|           | 35.  |      |
| 21.1.55.  | B.26. vetting enquiry re KEMPSON.                        | 35a. |
|           | 36.  |      |
| 24.1.55.  | To C.P.R. re KEMPSON.                                    | 36a. |



27.1.55

From M.I.6.

37a

38.

2.6.55. Ext. from Anglo - Soviet Journal, re members of Section Cttees and Councils for '54 - '55, ment REDGRAVE Michael.

38a.

39.

2.6.55. Ext. from Anglo - Soviet Journal, re members of Section Cttees and Councils for '54 - '55, ment KEMPSON Rachel.

39a.

40.

15.12.55

Enquiry by Mrs. Michael REDGRAVE

40a.

41:

16.7.56. Ext. from S.B. report. re ---, Michael.

41a.

42.

16.7.56. Ext. from S.B. report re ---, Rachel.

42a.

43.

29.4.58. Copy of S.B report re REDGRAVE.

43a

44

3.11.58

From Foreign Office

44a

45

18.11.58. To Foreign Office.

45a



46.

25.11.58.

S Form 283 to S.B.

46a.

47.

25.11.58.

S Form 252a to C.C. Hampshire.

47a.

48

27.11.58.

From Foreign Office.

48a

49.

29.12.58.

From C.C. Hants.

49a.

50

11.1.59.  
15.1.59

Cutting from The Observer.

50z

Int. letter to his mother from Guy BURGESS, ment. visit  
to Moscow of REDGRAVE

50a

51.

15.1.59

Copy of Foreign Office letter

51a.



D.1/C.T.Y.

---

1. Please see the note at ser.53a regarding REDGRAVE and BURGESS.

2. In your absence today I reported the matter to D, who thought that BURGESS's reported remark was very interesting and ~~thought~~ it would be worth while to try to get REDGRAVE to expand on his meetings with BURGESS. In view of REDGRAVE's record, it seems unlikely that a direct approach as from M.I.5 would be profitable, and D considered two possible alternative lines of approach:-

- (a) To get somebody from the Foreign Office to ask REDGRAVE openly to expand on what he had written in the "OBSERVER" about BURGESS. On the whole, however, D thought that REDGRAVE would not be very likely to respond to such an overture, especially as para.2 of ser.51a shows that he was not very communicative with H.M. Ambassador.
- (b) To get somebody in contact with REDGRAVE to elicit something from him in the course of a general chat about his Moscow visit, without openly admitting to a professional interest in BURGESS.

3. I myself know REDGRAVE rather slightly, and have for many years, but I think it would be difficult for me to approach him without making my professional interest known.

4. You may wish to discuss some time soon.

*Cedric Cliffe*

D.3  
13.3.59

C.A.L. Cliffe.

53.

13.3.59

Note for file

53a



54.

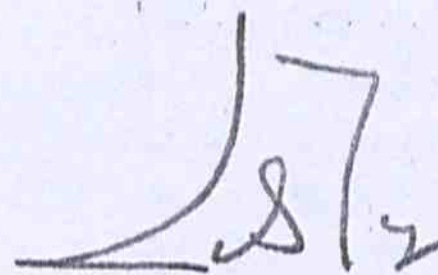
D.3/C.A.L.C.

We discussed 53a and minute 52 yesterday morning. We agreed that a Room 055 interview with REDGRAVE was out, and that it was unlikely he would respond to a request by the Foreign Office to open out about BURGESS.

2. We also agreed that the best line would be an approach through your friend

whom you are seeing next week, who may be able either to be briefed by you to get the conversation round to BURGESS next time he sees REDGRAVE or, if this was <sup>now</sup> too difficult, you yourself might be able to get your host to take you over for a glass of sherry with REDGRAVE when you could do it yourself.

3. If these ploys fail, we will have to see whether we can get another independent line on REDGRAVE, as we both agreed that the penultimate sentence of 53a, if it could be expanded upon, would be of considerable interest to us.



D.1  
17.3.59

Courtenay Young

Copy on PF.604,529 BURGESS

53.

D1/277

Reference para 2 of Minute 52 - I am afraid there was nothing doing on this line.

Cedric Cliffe

D3

2.12.59

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. Feb 2013



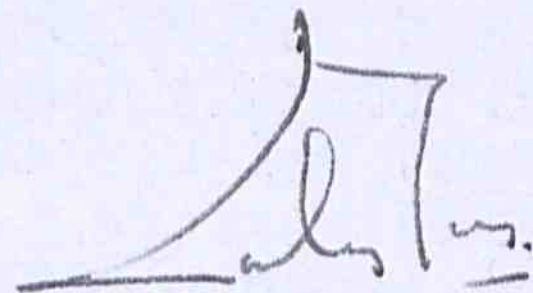
Copied to PF604529

56

F.4/Mr. Herbert

Please see 53a. As you will see from minute 55, the possibility of getting a little more from REDGRAVE as to what BURGESS said to him through D.3 has failed.

2. Have you anybody in touch with REDGRAVE who could bring the conversation round to the subject of BURGESS? Though it is rather old, the article at 50z might be an opening to discover a little more as to what BURGESS said to REDGRAVE, (about which he was noticeably reticent to H.M. Ambassador in Moscow.)



D.1  
2.4.59.

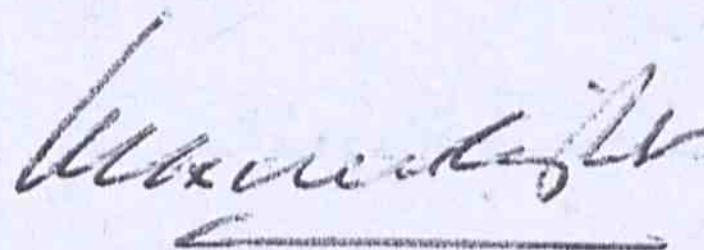
Courtenay Young

Copied to PF600529.

57.

D.1./Mr. Young through F.4./Mr. Herbert.

With reference to minute 56, I have spoken to my contact who is going to do what he can. I have informed Mr. Courtenay Young about the action I have taken. The information at 58a is perhaps worth reporting.



Maxwell Knight.

F.4.  
26.5.59.

58.

26.5.59. F.4./MK Source report

58e

59.

5.6.59. Source report.

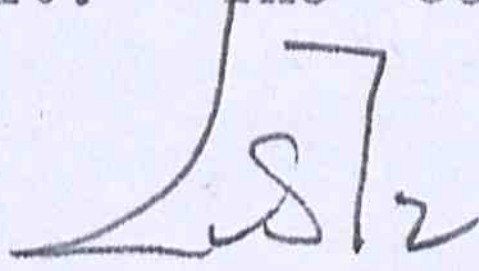
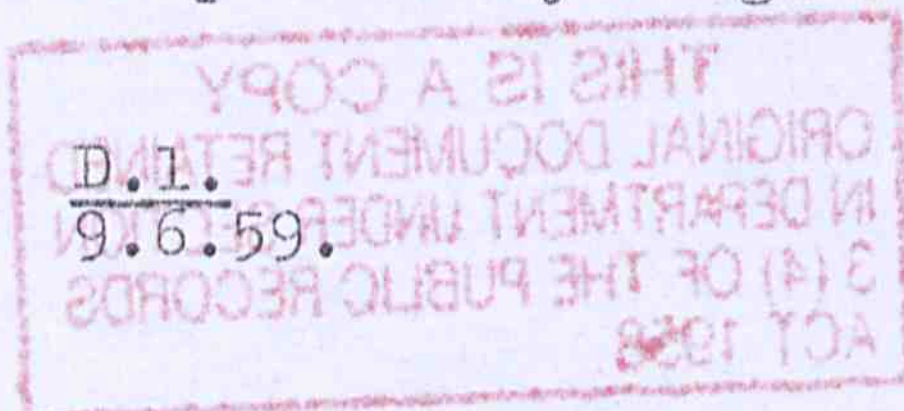
59a.

60

(copy to PF.604,529)

D.1. through D.3./CACC

To see 59a. This confirms 53a but unfortunately does not expand much upon it. The "certain place" is presumably Prague.



Courtenay Young.



61

27.5.59. From Foreign Office 61a

62

26.5.59. Extract from Foreign Office report 62a

63.

30.8.59. Extract from Reynolds News. 63a.

64

3.2.1961. From Commonwealth Relations Office. 64a

3.2.61. Note for file 64b

65

3.2.61. To Commonwealth Relations Office. 65a

66

5.4.61 Vetting enquiry from Foreign Office 66a

67

11.4.61 To Foreign Office 67a

68.

2.5.61. Cutting from "The Times" 68a

69.

25.8.61. To C.R.O. 69a

70.

10.10.61. From CRO 70a



26.10.61. Cutting from "Daily Mail"

71a

FILE CLOSED



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date.....

DAILY MAIL

26 OCT 1961

27/10

Page 56268

Paul Tanfield

## Another Redgrave joins in

COMPETITION for the Mills clan — until now the most successful show business family in the world. . . .

Sir Michael and Lady Redgrave have doubly flouted Mr. Coward's advice and put a SECOND daughter on the stage.

Eighteen-year-old Lynn followed mother, father, older sister Vanessa and brother Corin into a theatre career last night when she made her public debut at the Central School of Speech and Drama production of *Under Milk Wood*.

"When the theatre is talked breakfast, dinner, and tea in one's house, it's natural, isn't it?" she said.

Corin, assistant to the artistic director at the Royal Court Theatre, was the only one of the family to see Lynn's performance.

Lynn explained: "Daddy's about to open in America, Mummy's at the Vaudeville, and Vanessa is at Stratford." That's show business.



LYNN REDGRAVE  
Her theatre debut

30 OCT 1961

31/10/61





COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE  
DOWNING STREET  
LONDON S.W.1

Confidential

9th October, 1961

Whitehall 2323/Ext.

Your reference: PF.56,268/C3A

Please quote in reply: PG.44/47/2

70a

Dear Miss Anderson,

Your letter of 25th August about  
Sir Michael Redgrave.

2. This is just to confirm the information  
given to Miss Newington in March, i.e. in  
the event Sir Michael was not free to attend  
the Conference, as had been anticipated.

Yours sincerely,

ENCL

10 OCT 1961

REF

K Blair

(K. Blair, Miss)

Miss M.R. Anderson,  
Box 500.

24/6/10.10.61



CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

69a

PF. 56,268/G3A/MRA

25th August, 1961

Dear Mr. Costley-White,

Sir Michael REDGRAVE

65a

Please refer to our letter of the 3rd February, 1961, about the above named.

We should be glad to know whether it was decided to allow Sir Michael REDGRAVE to attend the Canadian Conference of Arts.

Yours sincerely,

*M. R. Anderson*

M. R. Anderson.

C. G. Costley-White, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.1.

MRA/JPF

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

*CARE*  
*28/8/61*  
*25-8-61*



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

68a  
- 2 MAY 1961

Date.....

PF 56268

THE TIMES

## MORE "SIT DOWN" FINES

### MAGISTRATE SAYS 'NOT TRYING CONSCIENCES'

A second batch of nuclear disarmament demonstrators, charged with obstruction arising out of last Saturday's sit-down protest in Whitehall, appeared yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. Of the 70 on the list one did not appear and five pleaded Not Guilty.

Fines imposed totalled £64. One man, who had two previous convictions, was fined £2; the majority were fined £1. Six juveniles were given an absolute discharge. Vanessa Redgrave, aged 24, of Grenville Place, South Kensington, actress daughter of Sir Michael Redgrave, and two actors, John Neville, of Laurel Way, Whetstone, and Severn Darden, aged 31, of Gardnor Road, Hampstead, were among those fined £1.

### IN HIROSHIMA

Most of the defendants described themselves as students. One said: "I would just like to thank the police for the way they have carried out their duty."

An older defendant said: "I belong to no political party. I just happened to be in Hiroshima once."

A woman defendant said: "I believe we have incurred the slaughter of all our children. I believe they have the right to say whether they want to live or not."

Mr. K. J. P. Barraclough, the Magistrate, who dealt with 42 defendants in No. 1 Court, said: "I am not trying your consciences and I am not trying the nuclear disarmament campaign. All I am concerned with in this court is the disregard of the Police Commissioner's orders."

He told the defendants who pleaded Not Guilty: "You may think the law of the land is wrong, but you are members of the community and you have to obey it. This is not a forum for political speeches."

The Rev. Michael Scott's £1 fine—imposed on Saturday—has been paid, it was announced at Bow Street yesterday.

A teacher of 63 and a schoolgirl of 14 were among 18 of the demonstrators who appeared yesterday at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court charged with disregarding a police direction in Whitehall. Sixteen, including teachers, a lecturer, students, a writer, an artist, secretaries, a physicist, and a civil servant, pleaded Guilty and were each fined 20s. The schoolgirl and a 15-year-old typist were sent to a juvenile court.

X R2 5 MAY 1961

7ms p2e

Fic / MPS

3

16.5.61  
FICIAM  
12.5.61



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

File  
L.B.

67a

PF 56,268/C.3.B./1

14th April, 1961.

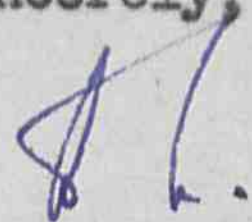
Dear Mr. Jupp,

Sir Michael Scudamore REDGRAVE

Please refer to your enquiry concerning the above-named, forwarded on behalf of the British Council.

We have nothing to add to our letter of 18th November, 1958 about REDGRAVE. We note from your QV.73/166 of 27th May, 1959 that no objection was raised to his co-option on to the British Council's Drama Committee in 1959.

Yours sincerely,



C. H. Lowry.

G. N. Jupp, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.

CHL/EOB

Enc: 1.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

11/4/61  
11/4/61  
11/4/61



THE BRITISH COUNCIL

FOREIGN OFFICE  
1602

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Surname  | REDGRAVE                               |
| 2. Christian Names<br>(state style,<br>title, decorations,<br>degrees etc.) | Sir Michael Scudamore, C.B.E.          |
| 3. Address (official)   | 3 Hans Crescent, S.W.1.                |
| 4. Home address (if<br>different from official<br>address)                  |  |
| 5. Date of birth  | 20.3.08                                |
| 6. Place of birth   | Not known                              |
| 7. Present occupation   | Actor                                  |
| 8. For appointment to   | Drama Advisory Committee               |
| 9. Remarks  | See <u>Who's Who</u> , 1961, page 2526 |

(Signed)

*J. L. Graham*

Department Secretariat

Date 28th March, 1961

(05827)

ENCL. \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 APR 1961

C.3. E.

ms 113  
17-4-61  
1091/CSA/1  
14-4-61

RF. 86. 268/CSA/2. - 450 - 61a  
450 - 62a



CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

65a ✓ File  
A.I. Book  
NC "C"  
L. Letter E

PF.56,268/C3A/3

3rd February, 1961.

PG.44/47/1

Dear Mr. Costley-White,

Sir Michael REDGRAVE blra

Would you please refer to the attached vetting enquiry on behalf of the British Council for the above-named, which was forwarded under cover of Miss Blair's letter dated 30th January, 1961. As you are already aware Sir Michael REDGRAVE was the subject of a similar type of vetting enquiry which was sent to us by the Foreign Office in 1958.

We have a record of Sir Michael REDGRAVE which shows that he was actively connected with the Unity Theatre Communist Group in 1941, and a member of the Unity Theatre General Council and Management Committee in 1942, 1943 and 1951/52. In 1944 he was reported as being a contact of the Cultural Groups Committee of the Communist Party and was believed at that time to be a leading member of the Actors Group of the Party.

Our information shows that REDGRAVE was a member of the Advisory Council of the Theatre Section of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956. He has not come to adverse notice since that date.

The Security Service advises that the above information should not necessarily debar the candidate from employment in a post affording opportunity for subversive activity, but your Department may prefer to make other arrangements if the post gives exceptional opportunity for such activity.

We shall be glad to know, in due course, whether Sir Michael REDGRAVE attends the Canadian Conference of Arts.

Yours sincerely,

lc  
C.H. Newington.

C.G. Costley-White, Esq., C.M.G.  
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE.

CHN/ECB

Enc: 1.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

6-2-61  
SUBA13



Reference.....PF.56,268 *546*

NOTE FOR FILE

At my request Miss Blair confirmed with the British Council that Sir Michael REDGRAVE's attendance at the Canadian Conference of Arts will involve panel discussions followed by informal talks with members of the acting profession. She was also told that if Sir Michael could be persuaded to do so, he will be asked to give one lecture during his stay in Canada.

*C.H. Newington*  
C.H. Newington.

3rd February, 1961.  
C3A/3

*6-2-61*  
*6-2-61*  
*6-2-61*





COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE  
DOWNING STREET  
LONDON, S.W.1

CONFIDENTIAL

Whitehall 2323/Ext.

Your Reference:

Please quote in reply: PG.44/47/1

30th January, 1961.

Dear Miss Newington,

With reference to our telephone conversation of today's date, I am sending you the usual particulars of Sir Michael Redgrave.

*See with letter at 66a*

2. The British Council are hoping he may be available to visit the Canadian Conference of Arts at Toronto in May, 1961, and we should be most grateful for an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

*K Blair*

(Miss K. Blair)

Miss C. Newington,  
Box 500.

ENCL.

31 JAN 1961

TO

REF



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : P.F. 56,268. Name : REDGRAVE.

Original in File No. : \* O.F. 1383. Vol. : 6. Serial : 197a. Receipt Date : 30.8.59.

Original from : Reynolds News. Under Ref. : Dated : 30.8.59.

Extracted on : 27.10.59. by : AMR. Section : 1/6.

Cutting from the Reynolds News.

Many of Britain's leading actors and musicians will take part in an entertainment, Stars in Your Eyes, which J.B. Priestley will compère at the Royal Festival Hall on September 21.

Among them will be Peter Peers, the singer, Benjamin Britten, the composer, Denis Matthews, the pianist, C.D. Lewis, the poet, and Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Sybil Thorndike, Sir Michael Redgrave, and Patience Collier.

The show, in aid of the Nuclear Disarmament Campaign, will close a week of rallies throughout Britain which begins on September 13.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

VCP4  
30101



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

b2a

Extract for File No. : P.F. 56,268. Name : REDGRAVE.  
 Original in File No. : \* S.F. 311-32. Vol. : 3. Serial : 127a Receipt Date : 27.5.59.  
 Original from : F.O. Under Ref. : QV 89/69. Dated : 26.5.59.  
 Extracted on : 18.6.59. by : E.J.W. Section : R.6.

Extract from Foreign Office Report.

Michael Warr has discussed with me your letter SF.311/32/C.3 of May 6 to him about the formulae which you use to convey your assessment of the record of a vetted British Council candidate and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

.....

3. You will appreciate that in most cases we say that we see no objection to the employment of a candidate to whom you have applied formula C or D, whereas we usually say we would prefer the British Council not to employ a candidate to whom you have applied formula A or B; but there are of course marginal cases where, although there is little security risk, there is a very real risk of embarrassment, which can only properly be assessed by Cultural Relations Department. In such cases, we usually show your assessment to Michael Warr on a personal basis and discuss it with him. He then decides in the light of our advice whether to say to the British Council that we do not object to the employment of the candidate or to say that we would prefer them to find someone else for the job. A good example of this type of case is provided by Michael Redgrave. We have told the British Council that there is no objection to his serving on the British Council's Drama Committee.

.....

19 6 59





CONFIDENTIAL

bla

ENCL

QV 733/166

28 MAY 1959

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

May 27, 1959.

F2/P8/n  
info -

TO: CBA  
REF: PF 56,268

FL 28/4

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your letter of November 18, 1958, (PF.56,268/C.3.A/2) about Michael Redgrave.

2. You may like to note that it has been suggested that he be co-opted on to the British Council's Drama Committee, and in view of his eminence we have raised no objection.

Yours ever,

T.H.

(T.H. Gillson)

Miss T. Selmes-Taylor.

CONFIDENTIAL

15.6.59  
30.6.59



Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin...F.4./M.K. Report No.....34748 590

Action copy to D.1./C.T.Y. Information copy to..... Typing Date.....5.6.5

REPORT

Michael REDGRAVE and Guy BURGESS

Source saw Michael REDGRAVE and there was no difficulty in working the conversation round to REDGRAVE's visit to Moscow and to Guy BURGESS.

2. REDGRAVE told Source that BURGESS had more than once told him that he, BURGESS, had considered that he had done his bit (or words to that effect) in delivering MACLEAN to the Russians. BURGESS also said that he himself had not intended to go on to Russia once he had introduced MACLEAN to persons whom he met "at a certain place". BURGESS said that in spite of his wishes he had been forced to continue his journey and ended up in Russia.

MK/AMH

Part II.

COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

Part III.

COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

Thank you for this extremely interesting report which confirms the information we had already obtained.

D.1.  
9.6.59.

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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. Feb 2013

Signed by  
Courtenay Young.



SECRET

58A

Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin F.4./M.K. Report No. 34205

Action copy to D.1./C.T.Y. Information copy to ..... Typing Date 26.5.59.

REPORT

Michael REDGRAVE

The following small piece of information is worth recording both as a matter of interest and possibly in justice to REDGRAVE himself.

2. It will be remembered that REDGRAVE was awarded the C.B.E. about two or three years ago. Shortly after the actual award REDGRAVE confided in Source that he had had some very uneasy moments since the time when he was first made aware, in strictest confidence, that he had been recommended for this honour. According to REDGRAVE he was approached by Sam WANAMAKER and asked to patronise or associate himself with some special Theatre Club which was clearly a Communist one. REDGRAVE refused partly because he said he did not wish to get mixed up with Communist activity, and partly because he dislikes WANAMAKER intensely and mistrusts him in every way. REDGRAVE was not unnaturally afraid that some gossip about this approach might reach the ears of the Queen's advisers and that the honour might not eventuate.

M.K./A.M.H.

Part II.

COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

Source of information very well placed and entirely reliable personally.

Part III.

COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

Progs  
12/6/59



Copy for: BURGESS - PF.604,529  
Original on PF.56,268 - REDGRAVE.

53A

NOTE FOR FILE.

1. Quite by chance I was in a conversation at the Savile Club last night at which various topics concerning Russia came up, among them that of Guy BURGESS. Needless to say nobody present knew that I had any particular interest in these matters.

\* No significant  
line  
cy.

2. A propos of BURGESS, Arnold HASKELL, who was among those present, said that he had been talking to Michael REDGRAVE since the latter had come back from Moscow, and that REDGRAVE had told him a good deal more about BURGESS than had appeared in REDGRAVE's article in the "OBSERVER" (ser. 50z). Some of the points we knew already, e.g. that BURGESS is miserably unhappy, in spite of the comfortable house and housekeeper laid on for him. There is also a "boy friend" provided by the Russian Government, who is understood (presumably by BURGESS) to be a State Security spy. There was, however, one interesting remark of BURGESS's which was reported by REDGRAVE, "I did all that was required of me by bringing MACLEAN safe to Russia". This remark of course reached me only at fourth hand, but I think the substance of it is pretty accurate.

Cedric Cliffe

D.3  
13.3.59

C.A.L. Cliffe.

12/6/59

12th March - Thence  
13/3/59



**SECRET**  
COPY

Extract for File No. P.F. 56,268 Name: REDGRAVE  
 Original in File No. P.F. 604,529 Vol. 28 Serial 1162 Receipt Date 15.1.59.

Original from ~~the~~ FOREIGN OFFICE Under Ref. 1611/9/IG Dated 15.1.59.  
 Extracted on 2.2.59. by MC Section R5

SECRET

(1611/9/IG)

January 9, 1959.

A few members of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company, who have just concluded their visit to the Soviet Union, have been in contact with Burgess.

2. Burgess got in touch with Michael Redgrave shortly after the latter's arrival in Moscow and invited him to lunch. I gather they knew each other at Cambridge. Redgrave accepted the invitation and went to Burgess' flat on December 27 where they had lunch alone together. I have not been able to find out very much about what passed, beyond the fact that Burgess admitted that life was not as comfortable as it might be in the Soviet Union but said that he was convinced he had done the right thing in coming here and that he would do the same again. Redgrave was not very communicative about this meeting and did not consult anyone in the Embassy before seeing Burgess.

3. The following day several members of the cast, including Redgrave, were invited to a party in Ralph Parker's flat at which Burgess was present. Wilfred Burchett, the Communist "stringer" of the Daily Express, was also there. Parker had made his number with the Company in Leningrad during the first days of their visit (he was the only British journalist who bothered to cover their Leningrad tour). One member of the Company, Miss Miranda Connell, had an introduction to Parker from Mr. Denis Forman of Granada T.V. who was out here recently and who appointed Parker as a sort of part-time agent for Granada. (This was reported in Holmer's letter to Edes 1433/4/12 of December 4).

/4. Most..

Sir Patrick Dean, K.C.M.G.,  
 Foreign Office,  
 London, S.W.1.

SECRET**SECRET**

Sturges  
 3.2.59



4. Most of the Stratford people at Parker's party had a few words with Burgess in the course of the evening. Their general impression was that he was not sober and looked in poor shape. (We also heard that after one of the performances Burgess made his way to Redgrave's dressing room and there was sick). He was not reported to have said anything of political interest. We were told that he spoke slightly of the Russians and particularly of the Soviet theatre. Some members of the Company got the impression that the Russian guests seemed to avoid Burgess and even to regard him with plain distaste. They also gathered that whatever work he did here did not keep him very busy. He told some of them that he felt very out of touch with what people were thinking in England nowadays.

5. The only person in whom he confided at all was Miss Coral Browne. He told her about his mother's illness and his wish to visit her in England. He asked Miss Browne if she would telephone his mother on her return to the United Kingdom to say she had seen him. She felt she could hardly refuse such a request, and she undertook to do so. She had to lend him 100 Rs. when he had no money to get home. In repayment he sent her a cheque for £61 drawn on his London Bank but Miss Browne is not intending to cash it. She also undertook, so we gather, to order him some clothes in England.

see page 4  
1161a  
page 5  
1161a

6. He also seems to have been in touch with Mark Dignam, the Company's only Communist. The latter approached two

/members...



SECRET

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- 3 -

members of the Embassy as the Company were about to depart and said that Burgess had asked him to tell the Embassy that if any of us wanted introductions to Russians he, Burgess, would be happy to oblige! The message was delivered by Lignam with every appearance of good faith, but Burgess must either have had his tongue in his cheek or be even more out of touch than he imagines.

7. I suppose it is inevitable that Burgess should get in touch with friends of his who come here, but it was unfortunate and rather surprising, I thought, that Redgrave should not have said a word to me about it before going to see Burgess. However, in the event, little harm seems to have come from the Stratford Company's contacts with the renegade community which, for most of them, I think were rather distasteful.

8. I have always thought that sooner or later the failing health of Burgess' mother would make it necessary to decide what to do if Burgess returns to the United Kingdom or asks for a passport or travel document to enable him to do so. I expect that the Security Service know, or can check whether she is in fact dying. If it seems clear that she will not last much longer, you may think that it is time to seek a decision from Ministers about what is to be done if Burgess goes to the United Kingdom or asks for facilities for doing so.

[D. P. Reilly.]

SECRET



Original on PF. 604,529 (Guy Burgess)

Jan. 15th. 1959.

SECRET

B

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516

Recd. 15/1

500

Abua.

ABMA  
PAR AVION

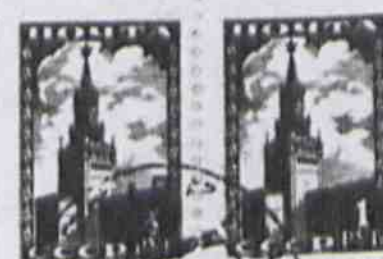
M<sup>rs</sup> J.R. Bassett.

14 Arlington House

Arlington Street

St. James'

ENGLAND LONDON



Mr. 5216 (Medians)  
Mr. 5216 (Medians)  
w/.

19/1/59.  
16/1

039



Jan. 15th. 1959.

SECRET

B

3

516

Hat-

(1)

Darlingest Mem -

I ~~was~~ have been feeling, as usual, ashamed  
(or, rather, ~~send~~)  
at having so far failed to write you a New Year  
letter (you'll hear why in a minute) - and even  
more ashamed when your sweet letter (~~with~~ the  
newsbaker cutting one) arrived today. Shamed  
& worried. For the first time I thought your  
handwriting showed great signs of tiredness  
- usually it is so firm & unchanged - more  
so than mine! But this time, in this letter,  
and the way you talked about Daddy, I felt  
very mis. Of course I shld. love to read  
Daddy's letters but can't bear to think of it  
the way you put it. I could & would love to  
read them now. But I don't think I could  
read them if as you suggest I ~~only~~ got them

040



Jan. 15th. 1959.

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516

②  
after your death. They wouldn't I fear remind  
me of what you think, your happy life  
— which was as happy as any bodies ever —  
but of your the unhappy parts, his  
shocking early death, so cruel; and then  
too of course your last sadness over me.

No, please make no arrangements. I could  
not bear even to think of you doing so.

And if I ever changed my mind I  
could always get copies (photo staties)  
from Nigel.

Well that's a cheerful beginning  
to my new year letter. ~~There~~ There  
is a reason why it has been delayed.

041



Jan. 15th. 1959.

SECRET

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516

(3)

In the past week I have been seeing  
a lot of the <sup>English</sup> Shakespeare Company from  
Stratford on Avon which has been here.

Michael Redgrave was an old friend  
from Cambridge Days - he once edited  
a paper with Anthony at Cambridge  
well known in its day but I don't  
think he & Anthony have been friends

Since. (We have I for that matter  
but I heard Michael said he'd like  
to see him & I liked doing so - tho'  
too many drinks with all the Company)  
Their visit & particularly Michael's

Hamlet was a triumph here (Romeo  
& J. - M. was not Romeo) by contrast

042



Jan. 15th. 1959.

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516

(2)

Not such a triumph. But I have never  
seen such a reception as Michael's  
Hamlet got on its last night. It's  
certainly the best Hamlet together I've  
ever seen - better than Iceland, better  
than Olivier, much better than Paul  
Scholfield.

And everyone here thought the  
same too.

The Queen in Hamlet who I  
met for the first time is a very good  
~~British~~ actress, very pretty, not  
very young, called Coral Browne  
(Mrs Pearson). I like I made

043



Jan. 15th. 1959.

SECRET

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516

(5)

rather friends with her - but you never  
can tell with stage people - anyway  
she has very kindly promised to buy  
me some suits (I haven't had any  
for 8 years & winter wear is beginning).

I wrote a letter to Forman who you  
had told me & he too, did arrange  
for purchase of goods to be sent  
abroad, avoid Purchase Tax etc; so  
all that side of things shld be O.K.  
I sent the letter to Forman via  
Carol Browne - but stupidly forgot  
to put one I had written to you  
~~into~~ in too. This was my new year

044



Jan. 15th. 1959.

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516

letter I had it (me by then it  
Wld. have reached you much sooner  
than this will. I say "try to  
put it" in - actually a stupid  
muddle in Hotel -

Carol Brame said very kindly she  
would come to see you to give my  
love etc and I think she will. If  
she does do ask her if she got  
the 100 roubles I owed her O.K.

- it was left with the desk woman  
who kept the keys on her floor.

But every arrangement at the  
Hotel was unreliable for messages.

045



Jan. 15th. 1959.

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516

(7)

As I say I thought Coral Browne was  
a dear - but people often think  
that of actors & actresses when  
it is in no way reciprocated.

Anyway ~~Richard~~ Richard came to  
lunch twice once alone & once with  
another actor & we had fine gossip  
& Coral came once alone & we had  
a fine gossip tho' I remember  
keeping her long after it was clear  
even to me she had to be off!  
I do love gossip. (I think you  
do too tho' many not admit it. But

046



Jan. 15th. 1959.

SECRET

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516

if you didn't, you ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't  
always know it all, as you do.

Oh Lord the number of people  
I haven't thanked for Xmas  
Cards. Having foolishly sent none  
I suppose I shall have to write.

Do thank Goy for her sweet-  
on Xmas card  
ness. I'm so glad the press was  
a success

I think of you so much  
but wait about saying so-as I like  
you, your letter warmed me. I thought Lady  
Mackay who is a v. nice, if there  
woman gave a v. dignified interview <sup>about</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>88</sup>

↑  
GOY BURGESS

047



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Our Ref.: P.F. 56,268/T1A.

Date: 25.11.58.

BOX 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

\*Delete as  
necessary

To the \*Chief Constable of HAMPSHIRE.

\*~~Commander, Special Branch, Scotland Yard.~~

The Director General would be glad to receive any further information you may have about the individual mentioned below.

Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

NAME: REDGRAVE, Michael Scudamore.

ALIAS:

ADDRESS(ES):  
(give dates)  
1943: 2, Windmill Road, CROYDON, Surrey.  
1944: 109, Rivermead Court, FULHAM, S.W.6.  
1951: Bedford House, CHISWICK, Middlesex.  
1958: 3, Hans Crescent, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.  
1958: (home) Wilks Water, ODIHAM, Hampshire.

NAT.: British.

BORN AT: Bristol.

ON: 20.3.08.

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER: 1934&1958: Stage & Film Actor.

\*PERSONAL  
DESCRIPTION:

SECURITY  
INFORMATION

1940: Suspected of having Left Wing sympathies.  
1944: Member of the Actors Group of the Communist Party.  
1949: Member of the Theatre Section Committee of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. (communist controlled)  
1953&1956: Member of the Advisory Council of the Theatre Section of the Society for Cultural Relations with U.S.S.R. (communist controlled)

For use of Chief Constable.

C.C. Ref.: 20B/1963.

It is confirmed that the above named is residing at Wilks Water, Odiham, Hampshire. He has not come to notice in connection with the activities of the Communist Party in this district and it can be said that he is not in touch with any local known Communists.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. Feb 2013

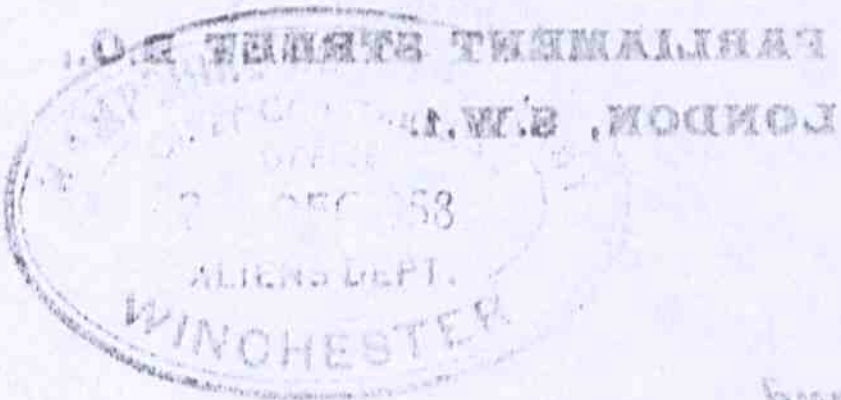
Continue overleaf if necessary.



CONFIDENTIAL

FORWARDED TO:

The Director General, Box No. 500,  
Parliament Street B.O., London, S. W. 1.  
for information.



*W. R. L.*  
Chief Constable of Hampshire  
and the Isle of Wight.

The Director General would be glad to receive any further information  
you may have about the individual mentioned below.  
Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to  
this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

NAME: *John A. Michael*

ALIAS:

ADDRESS(ES):  
(give dates)  
1942: 2, Ivy Hill Road, W. 11, Surrey.  
1944: 100, Riverside Court, W. 11, Surrey.  
1945: 100, Riverside Court, W. 11, Surrey.  
1946: 100, Riverside Court, W. 11, Surrey.  
1947: 100, Riverside Court, W. 11, Surrey.  
1948: 100, Riverside Court, W. 11, Surrey.

IDENTITY NUMBER:

NAT:

BORN AT:

ON:

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER:

PERSONAL  
DESCRIPTION:

SECURITY  
INFORMATION:

1940: Suspected of having left the authorities.  
1941: Member of the Workers' Party of the Communist  
Party.  
1942: Member of the Theatre Section Committee of the  
Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R.  
(communist controlled).  
1943: Member of the Advisory Council of the  
Theatre Section of the Society for Cultural  
Relations with the U.S.S.R. (communist controlled).

For use of Chief Constable.

O.C. Ref.: 207/1952.

It is confirmed that the above named is residing at 111, Water, Winton,  
Hampshire. He has not come to notice in connection with the activities of  
the Communist Party in this district and it can be said that he is not in  
touch with any local known Communists.

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3 (A) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958

Contains omitted if necessary.

Personal descriptions, unless specially marked, are not required by Box 500.  
H. Form 222A Rev. 5.51



# Theatre in Russia

By Michael Redgrave

The leading actor of the Stratford company, which returned last week after a season of Shakespeare in Moscow and Leningrad, sums up his impressions of the Russian Theatre.

EACH time the car skidded on its glassy way back to Moscow Airport it was as if a kaleidoscope clicked into a new pattern, now bright, now shadowy. There had been great feelings of exultation and also long hours when we were dumbly angry with ourselves for the incapacity to enjoy all there was to be enjoyed. But how much, we agreed, was already to be remembered with happiness!

We could still remember the noble beauty of Leningrad embraced by a few hours of winter sunshine; we could still feel the handclaps and kisses of Russian colleagues who had met us behind the scenes of our theatres, who in both cities had invited us to their "Actors' House," a sort of Federated Unions' Club the like of which we have not in England; we could remember the dazzling concert they staged for us in the Moscow "House."

We would, we agreed, remember all our lives the wave upon wave of smiling faces, the surge and resurge of applause in our theatres, the gifts and postcards, the feel of friendly hands wringing ours. I, in particular, remembered—having mislaid my headgear—standing waiting for a car, and the cries of "Go back inside," "Keep warm," "You have another performance to-night," and the gesture of a man who pressed into my hands his own fur hat.

## Guy Burgess

And yet . . . the kaleidoscope clicks again, and one remembers someone saying, in English, "When Petera Brooka Gamlet was here, we could invite the actors to our homes. . . . Now. . ." and a gesture of sadness. And I remember the face of Guy Burgess, his eyes red with tears and his voice only just in control. He had come in to my dressing-room after a performance. "I suppose it's partly because I haven't heard this glorious stuff in English for years, but, believe me, this is the most wonderful thing that could have happened."

It was hard to explain why we could not all come back this time next year, with three more plays. They understood when I explained that some of the executives and staff had forgone any holiday to make the visit possible and that this year's Stratford season begins rehearsals at the end of February. But the concept that actors in England are casual labourers was more difficult to make understood.

Still more difficult was the proposition, which I had opportunity to express only once or twice and then not in a formal speech: that though I disliked the waste which is inherent in our system, I could also perceive some waste in the Russian, where, though there is no unemployment, there are many artists who are allotted only a few roles throughout their lives, according to their size, shape and aptitude. I remember Akimov, the

talented director of the Comedy Theatre in Leningrad, saying to us, in front of some of his company, that the difficulty for a director was not so much in finding talent but in dismissing it. I remember, on my first meeting with the actor Cherkasov, whom I could look level in the eyes, though his forehead soars half an inch over mine, saying: "And they said I was too tall for Hamlet! . . ." He is one of the great actors of the world, and I shared his incomprehension.

## Mixed Receptions

Moscow and Leningrad theatres vary as much in their quality as in their policy, and whereas you might see one evening at the Kirov (formerly the Maryinsky) Theatre in Leningrad an excellent ballet of "Don Quixote" with Dudinskaya, this should not lead you to imagine that a night later a ballet called "Corsair" would be anything but old fashioned and lavishly dull. The theatre would be packed full for both occasions, apparently with a similar audience; but it was worth noting that the applause was very different.

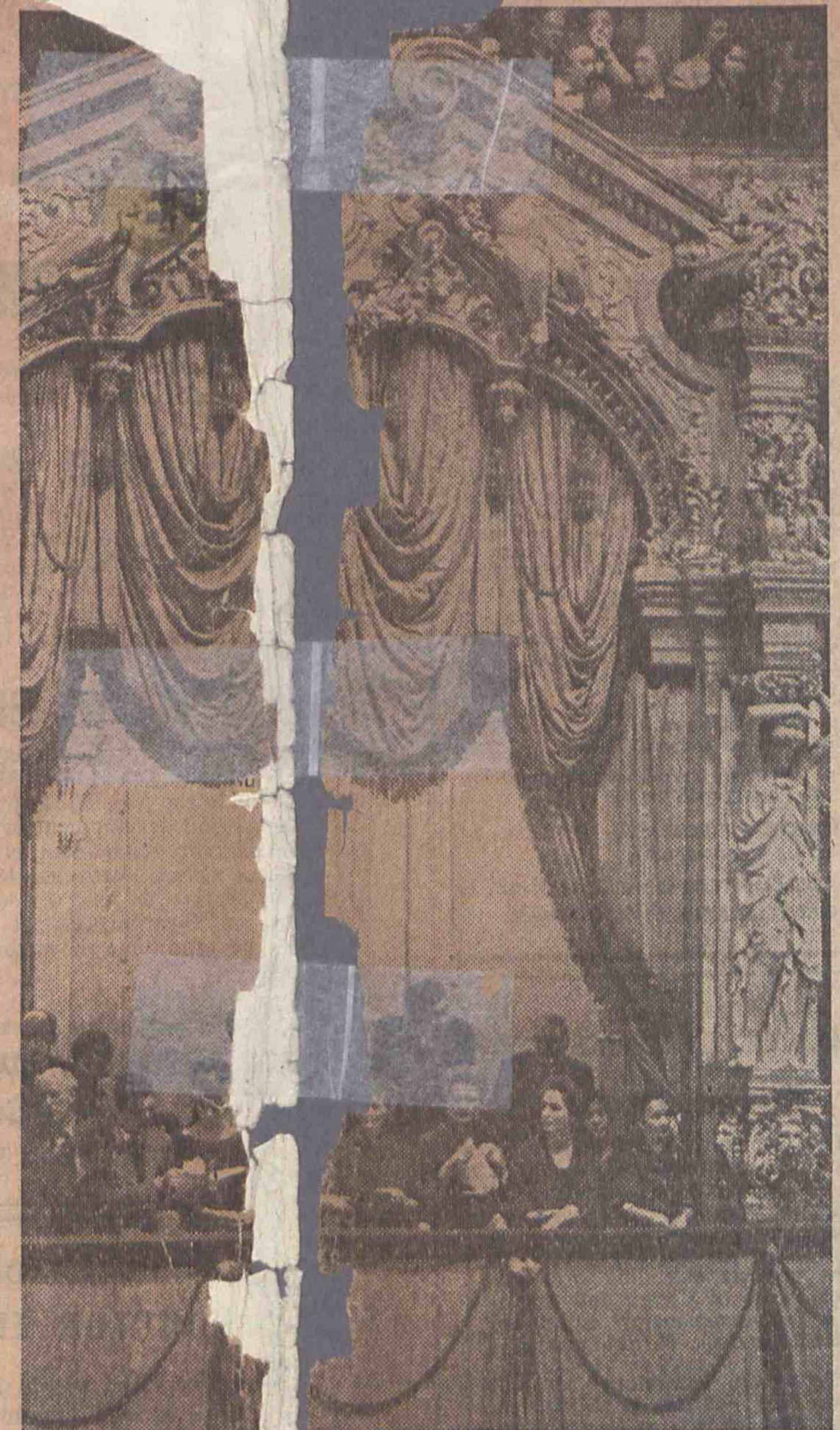
Similarly at the Gorki Theatre a performance of "The Devil's Disciple," which gave every appearance of having been in the repertory for too long a time, brought a full house but lukewarm applause. However, two days later at the Pushkin, an elaborate, "realistic," staggeringly detailed production of a play by the Soviet writer Bulgakov, "The Escape," a story of the flight and degrada-

tion of White Russians during the revolution, was given prolonged, respectful and serious applause: chiefly due to the brilliant Cherkasov as a tragic White general and to an outstanding cast. This whole play was presented behind a gauze, which not only served to cover the elaborate scene changes, and on to which could be projected—à la Brecht—reminders to the audience as to what they should think about the piece, but which symbolically disappeared for the epilogue, where the White general returned voluntarily to his Motherland, asking to be executed.

With stage adaptations of long novels I have never had much patience. Four and three-quarter hours of "The Idiot" in Leningrad and a celebrated production of "Anna Karenina" at the Moscow Arts Theatre did not alter this prejudice, though both contained moments of theatrical excitement. Both reminded me of what is in America called a "club sandwich": piquant delicacies interlarded between an intolerable deal of bread, and from the first bite indigestible.

We saw a good production of "The Government Inspector" on traditional lines, with moments of high comedy; but I could not help contrasting it with an equally conventional but better production I had seen a few years ago in Stockholm.

The circus in Moscow, though without the young clown Popov, whose success in England has greatly increased his prestige and popularity in Russia, was, I think, the best



Redgrave, to face, sits with the rest of the company in the Royal Box, still so-named, at the Kirov Theatre. Photographs by Roger Wood.

I have ever seen in the world. With a respect to superlative circus at Olympia and in the three-ring circus at Madame Tussauds, I was more convinced that the circus is best experienced in the intimacy of a building which in Moscow is much the same size as the Cirque d'été in Paris.

## Children's Theatre

The star-turn, the illusionist Kio, reminded me of my happy childhood afternoons at Maskelyne and Devant's, the old St. George's Hall in Langham-place. But in those days the illusions were performed on a "picture-frame" stage, against black velvet drapes. In Moscow, in the middle of the arena, one of the towns was hoisted in a box into mid-air, and when Kio aimed a pistol at the box I said to my neighbours, "Bet you'll change into a caged lion!" It was the most successful prophecy I ever made in my life. I was so happy that I felt I'd won again.

I wonder whether it was also the child, who is so much the father to every actor, which made the performance by the Leningrad Children's Theatre the most exciting theatrical event I saw in Russia? The theatre is housed in a large, circular auditorium, previously a lecture hall, with steeply raised rows of seats. It has no stage to speak of, and the performances take place half "in the round."

The scenery was in the most brilliant false perspective, like a New York shop window at

Christmas: trees, a lake, and the shore and forest beyond. At moments two lost boys, trapped by a witch (Hänsel and Hänsel?), are seen submerged in the lake. The witch was played by a man, and I can offer no greater compliment to the actor than to say that he played his part with all the delicacy, point and humour with which Alec Guinness might invest such a role. The whole performance was a delight, full of true fantasy and fantastic truth.

I stress this word truth deliberately. I had met at lunch one of the directors of the Children's Theatre, Leonid Makariev. He told me that he was wishing to translate my books on the actor's craft. I replied that for an Englishman to bring acting theory to Russia was bringing coals to Newcastle. When he laughed at this I felt sure I had a good translator. He said that he quarrelled with only one thing: my statement that Stanislavsky's system was small help in performing Shakespeare.

"That's right," I said, "Shakespeare is more an impressionist than a realist." His big eyes widened. "But," he said, "realism . . . realism is truth." It was only with the help of one of our wonderful team of interpreters that I was able to make him understand that here we were up against a problem of semantics, and that realism for us did not, essentially, mean truth.

The relation of realism to truth has often been thoroughly analysed. But I do not think the Russians understand it, and I don't suppose we do either, however much we think so.



Angela Baddeley (left) and Coral Browne with Michael Redgrave and his wife, Rachel Kempson, in the main square of Leningrad.



CONFIDENTIAL

48a

~~QV 821~~

QV733/166

ENCL

C3A

27 NOV 1958

TO

C3A

REF

PF 56268

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

November 25, 1958.

Dear Miss Selmes-Taylor 48a

Please refer to your letter  
PF.56,268/C.3.A/2 of November 18 about  
Michael Redgrave.

2. We are raising no objection to his  
visit to Vienna as a lecturer sponsored by  
the British Council.

Yours ever  
Curtis Keeble

(H.B.C. Keeble)

Miss T. Selmes-Taylor

CONFIDENTIAL

8/11/58  
28/11/58  
R3  
27.11.58



**CONFIDENTIAL**

47a

Our Ref.: P.F. 56,268/F1A.

Date: 25.11.58.

BOX 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

\*Delete as  
necessary

To the \*Chief Constable of HAMPSHIRE.

~~\*Commander, Special Branch, Scotland Yard.~~

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Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

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(give dates)  
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1951: Bedford House, CHISWICK, Middlesex.  
1958: 3, Hans Crescent, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.  
1958: (home) Wilks Water, ODIHAM, Hampshire.

NAT.: British.  
BORN AT: Bristol.  
ON: 20.3.08.  
OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER: 1934&1958: Stage & Film Actor.

**\*PERSONAL  
DESCRIPTION:**

**SECURITY  
INFORMATION**

1940: Suspected of having Left Wing sympathies.  
1944: Member of the Actors Group of the Communist Party.  
1949: Member of the Theatre Section Committee of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. (communist controlled)  
1953&1956: Member of the Advisory Council of the Theatre Section of the Society for Cultural Relations with U.S.S.R. (communist controlled)

C.C. Ref.:

**For use of Chief Constable.**

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3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. Feb 2013

Continue overleaf if necessary.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

From:—Box 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

To :—DEPUTY COMMANDER, S.B.,  
SCOTLAND YARD.

Our Ref.: P.F. 56,268/F1A.

Date.....25.11.58.....

Your Ref.: R.F. 102/11/1539 of 28.1.58.

Name: REDGRAVE, Michael Scudamore.

Former Branch or Add.: Bedford House, Chiswick, Middlesex.

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above:

Full Names:

@:

Address(es): 1958: 3, Hans Crescent, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.  
(Give dates) 1958: (home) Wilks Water, ODIHAM, Hampshire.

Nat.:

Born at:

on:

Occupation:

Employer:

Security Information:

Miscellaneous: The Chief Constable of Hampshire has been informed.

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ACT 1958. Feb 2013

This form to be forwarded to S.B. in duplicate.



CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

45a

PF. 56,268  
A.I. LB  
Letter Book.

B. NV

PF. 56,268/C.3.A/2

846

18th November, 1958.

Da M. H.

Michael REDGRAVE.

Please refer to your vetting enquiry on behalf of the British Council in respect of the above-named man.

27a- Michael REDGRAVE has an extensive record in this office having first come to security notice in 1940. He was actively connected with the Unity Theatre Communist Group in 1941, and a member of the Unity Theatre General Council and Management Committee in 1942, 1943 and 1951/52. In 1944 he was reported as being a contact of the Cultural Groups Committee of the Communist Party and was believed at that time to be a leading member of the Actors Group. - 20a

23a Our information shows that REDGRAVE was a member of the Advisory Council of the British section of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956. He has not come to adverse notice since that date. X 36 38a 41a

We should be grateful to know whether Michael REDGRAVE goes to Vienna as a sponsored lecturer.

T. Selmes-Taylor.

H.B.C. Keeble, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.

TST/BAF

Enc: 1.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

CSA JAG  
18.11.58



44a

CONFIDENTIAL

Department reference

Serial No. 846.

TO: 1. I.R.D.

2. Security Department.

FROM: G.I.D. \*  
~~XXXXXX~~  
or  
C.R.D. \*

Have you any record of the undermentioned who is proposed as a

\* ~~sponsored visitor/lecturer to Germany~~\* lecturer for British Council at VIENNA (~~Kleines Theater in der~~  
Josefstadt)

on (Date).....

\* (No) Previous Report (On) ~~xxx~~

\* (Delete as required)

Surname REDGRAVE (O.B.E.) (Mr./Mrs./Miss/or title) \*  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Name at Birth if different from above.....

Christian Names Michael SoudamoreOfficial Address X 3 Hans Crescent, S.W.1. XTel. No. KENSington 9572Home Address X Wilks Water, Odiham, Hants. X

Tel. No. ....

Date of Birth March 20, 1908.Place of Birth Bristol.

Present occupation.....

Recommended by.....

✓  
C-3A/BK



COPYREDGRAVE  
ASQUITH

43a

Extract for File No. P.F. 56,268  
P.F. 142,556

Name:

Original in File No. O.F. 1073 British Film Inst. Vol. - Serial 32a Receipt Date 29.4.58Original from the S.B. Report Under Ref. - Dated 29.4.58Extracted on 2.5.58by AESection B6

S.B. No. 1 (P. 1000)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

ENCL

29 APR 1958

TO

28th day of April 1958

REF. OF 1073

SUBJECT Film

Script Com-  
petition.

Reference to Paper

X CUTTING IS  
NOT ENCLOSEDX Attached is a cutting from "The  
Observer" dated Sunday, 20th April, 1958.X It refers to a film script  
competition organised in this country by the  
Johan J. SMIT Foundation of New York. The theme  
of the competition is peace and international  
understanding, the winner to receive a prize  
of £1,000.X The British Film Institute, 164,  
Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2 will administer the  
competition, and three judges have been  
appointed: Mrs. Mary FIELD, Mr. Anthony  
ASQUITH and Mr. Michael REDGRAVE.A search of Special Branch records  
shows that ASQUITH is subject of RF 405/45/683,  
A.I.5 PF 142, 556, and has a record stretching  
over nearly twenty years, of association  
with and sponsorship of left wing cultural  
organisations, among them, Free German League  
of Culture (320/FGN/689), and the Society for  
Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R (400/49/2).  
He is at present chairman of the Association of  
Cine Technicians (400/46/17).Michael REDGRAVE is subject of RF  
402/44/1539, PF 56,268. He also has a record  
of extreme left wing association since 1941  
and in Spring 1949 was described by "Trybuna  
Ludu", organ of the Polish United Workers' Party  
as 'the only British film star who is a member  
of the Communist Party'. He has not, however,  
come to notice since September 1956.Mary FIELD is not positively  
identifiable on the particulars given; she may  
be identical with Mary FIELD who was the signatory  
to a letter in the "Daily Worker" dated 9.9.53  
correcting a minor point in a film review  
published previously in that paper (347/52/8 -160).MM 24  
5/5/58  
23/4  
29.4



Page No.

• She is there described as the secretary of the Children's Film Foundation Ltd.

The British Film Institute is mentioned at 4A on 408/54/26 as being the employer of David HILBERMAN, subject, an American communist.

The Johan J. SMIT Foundation of New York has not previously come to notice.

There is no trace of C.A. LESTONE in our records.

Submitted.

*J. L. S. J.*  
Constable

*W. Jones*  
Chief Inspector.

*W. J. S. J.*  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.



Extract for File No. P.F.56,268

Name. KEMPSON

42a

Original in File No. O.F.50/2 Vol 25 Serial 902b. Receipt Date 16.7.56

Original from: S.B. Report. Under Ref.RF400/53/73. Dated 14.7.56.

Extracted on: 11.2.57. by: M.B. Section R.6.

Extract from S.B. Report re. Society for Cultural Relations with  
the U.S.S.R. (a Communist controlled organisation) mentioning: KEMPSON

Discreet enquiries into the affairs of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. show that this organisation continues to function from headquarters at 14, Kensington Square, W.8, and that its officers are now as follows:

.....

THEATRE.

.....

Advisory Council

.....

Rachel KEMPSON

(Mentions)

.....

File  
13-2-57



Extract for File No. P.F.56,268

Name. REDGRAVE

41a

Original in File No. O.F.50/2 Vol 25 Serial 902b. Receipt Date 16.7.56.

Original from: S.B. Report. Under Ref. RF400/53/73. Dated 14.7.56.

Extracted on: 11.2.57. by: M.B. Section R.6.

Extract from S.B. Report re. Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. (a Communist controlled organisation) mentioning: REDGRAVE

Discreet enquiries into the affairs of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. show that this organisation continues to function from headquarters at 14, Kensington Square, W.8, and that its officers are now as follows:

.....  
THEATRE.

.....  
Advisory Council

.....

.....  
Michael REDGRAVE, <sup>C</sup>G.B.E.

RF.402/44/1539

.....

4/104  
15-2-57



[Copy]

Sum 028-15112

400.

ENQUIRY BY MRS. MICHAEL REDGRAVE

Enquiry Desk rang me this morning to say that Mrs. Michael Redgrave had telephoned to enquire whether there was any objection to her accepting an invitation from the Polish Institute to deputise for Mrs. Margaretta Scott at a poetry reading in the Festival Hall (presumably part of the Mickiewicz celebrations). She had understood from Mrs. Margaretta Scott that the Foreign Office had written advising her against accepting the Polish Institute's invitation.

2. Neither Northern Department nor I.R.D., whom I consulted, know of any such letter having been written to Mrs. Scott. The Polish Institute, though run by the Polish Embassy, is not a Front organisation; and it seemed most unlikely that a letter would have emanated from the Foreign Office explicitly discouraging acceptance of an invitation from it. Mr. Overton said that a member of his Department, not present at the time, was a friend of Mrs. Scott and might possibly have discouraged her in the course of personal and unofficial conversation.

3. It was agreed with Mr. Overton that I should tell Mrs. Redgrave that, to the best of my knowledge, no letter had been sent by the Foreign Office to Mrs. Scott on this subject, that it was entirely up to her whether she accepted the Polish Institute's invitation or not, and that we should not wish to interfere.

4. At this moment Mrs. Redgrave, or someone on her behalf, telephoned to me to say that she had consulted Christopher Hassall, who was also taking part in the poetry reading concerned, had been reassured by him, and wished to withdraw her enquiry. She thought she might have misunderstood what Mrs. Scott had said. I spoke as agreed with Mr. Overton.

5. Both Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Redgrave read for the Apollo Society, which has been advertised as making arrangements for the Mickiewicz readings in the Festival Hall.

signed: H. G. Balfour-Paul  
December 10, 1955

W. G. B. Paul  
20/12



**SECRET**

E X T R A C T

39a

Extract for: P.F.56,268.

Name: KEMPSON Rachel

Original in: O.F. 50<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

Vol: 23. Serial: 841z. Receipt date:

Orig. from: F.4/AS. Source report. Ref: 15,974.

Dated: 2.6.55.

Ext'd on: 22.6.55.

By: SPA.

Section : R.6.

Extract from Anglo-Soviet Journal. Spring 1955. Volume XV1. Number 1.  
Journal of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R.,  
Communist dominated Society. forwarded by F.4/AS., re members of the  
Section Committees and Councils for 1954/55. ment. Rachel KEMPSON.

.....

Theatre.

.....

Advisory Council: Rachel Kempson.

.....

NOTE: Special Branch has been informed.

*Am Rt.*  
*27.6.55*



SECRET

E X T R A C T

38a

Extract for: P.F. 56,268

Name: REDGRAVE Michael.

Original in: O.F. 50/2.

Vol: 23. Serial: 841z. Receipt date:

Orig. from: F.4/AS. Source report. Ref: 15,974.

Dated: 2.6.55.

Ext'd on: 22.6.55.

By: SPA.

Section : R.6.

Extract from Anglo-Soviet Journal, Spring 1955. Volume XV1. Number 1.  
Journal of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R..  
Communist dominated Society, forwarded by F.4/AS., re members of the  
Section Committees and Councils for 1954/55, ment. Michael REDGRAVE.

.....

Theatre.

.....

Advisory Council: Michael Redgrave, C.B.E.

.....

NOTE: Special Branch has been informed.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
27.6.55



Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

Ref: 316/132

London, S.W. 1.

26th January, 1955.

37a

Miss P. Commings,  
M.I.5.

My dear *Pam*

Thank you so much for your letter of 24th January, reference PF. 56,268/FLA/P.C. giving us the adverse trace for Rachel KEMPSON. We are most grateful for the information.

Yours *even*

ENCL .....  
27 JAN 1955 *test*  
TO *FIA* .....  
REF *PF. 56268* .....

H.O.16./11.46.

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CONFIDENTIAL

36A

PP.56,268/MA/PC.

CHP/R.

24th January, 1955.

Dear

KEMPSON, Rachel.  
Bedford House, Chiswick, W.4.

With reference to the vetting enquiry by CHP/R dated 20.1.55. about the actress Rachel KEMPSON.

We have an adverse trace for KEMPSON which shows that in 1941 she took part in a stage production of the Unity Theatre Communist Group. We have no record of her activities since that date until she was elected a member of the 1953/54 Advisory Council of the Theatre Section of the S.C.R.

When assessing the above security information it should perhaps be remembered that Rachel KEMPSON's husband Michael REDGRAVE has been the subject of a security record since 1940. He was actively connected with Unity Theatre Communist Group in 1941, a member of Unity Theatre General Council and Management Committee in 1942 and 1943, and in 1951/52. In addition he was known to be a member of the Actors' Group of the Communist Party in 1944 and 1949 and at the same time to be in touch with Communist Party Cultural Groups. More recent information shows that REDGRAVE is a member of the 1953/54 Advisory Council of the Theatre Section of the S.C.R.

has it  
for this

Yours

PC

P. Connings.

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ACT 1958. Feb 2013

CONFIDENTIAL

52/124  
26/1/55

FIA 15/1/55



B.26 REQUEST FOR LOOK-UP.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY.

Section .....

Date .....

M.I.5. REGISTRY : \*PLEASE TRACE, AND TELEPHONE REPLY TO .C.P.R./R....ext....559.....

\*IN CONFIRMATION OF TELEPHONE REQUEST BY.....20.1.55.....

\*(DELETE WHICHEVER IS INAPPLICABLE).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| SURNAME<br>AND ALIAS (IF ANY)                                    | SW SdL 21/1/55<br><u>KEMPSON</u>                                 |
| FORENAMES  | <u>Rachel</u>  |
| MAIDEN NAME, if a married woman                                  |  |
| NATIONALITY<br>(NATIONALITY AT BIRTH IF<br>DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) | British  |
| DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH  | Born about 1910.   |
| LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OR WHEREABOUTS                                |  |
| PERMANENT ADDRESS  |  |
| COUNTRIES FREQUENTED   |  |
| WHERE AND HOW EMPLOYED   | Actress  |
| ANY FURTHER INFORMATION<br>TO ASSIST IDENTIFICATION              | SLV.<br>Married to <u>Michael REDGRAVE</u>                       |
| REASON FOR MAKING THE ENQUIRY                                    | Potential contact.   |
|  | ENCL <u>2 pages.</u><br>21 JAN 1955<br>TO <u>CR</u><br>REF ..... |



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

From:—Box 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: P.F.56,268/F.1.A.

Your Ref: RF.402/44/1539. of 3.8.51.

To:—~~THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,~~

.....  
\*COMMANDER, S.B.,  
SCOTLAND YARD.

Date.....16.12.54.....

Name: REDGRAVE, Michael Scudamore.

Bedford House,  
CHISWICK, Middx.

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above:

Full Names:

Alias:

Address(es):  
(Give dates)

Nat.:

Born at:

on:

Occupation:

Employer:

Security Information: 1953/54. Member of Advisory Council of Theatre Section  
of Society for Cultural Relations.

Miscellaneous :

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ACT 1958. Feb 2013



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

Our Ref.: P.F. 56,268/F.I.A.

Date: 30.11.54.

BOX 500,  
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

\*Delete as  
necessary

To the \*~~Chief Constable of~~

\*Commander, Special Branch, Scotland Yard.

The Director General would be glad to receive any further information you may have about the individual mentioned below.

Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

NAME: REDGRAVE, Mrs Rachel.

ALIAS: KEMPSON, Rachel.

ADDRESS(ES): 1954: Bedford House, Chiswick Mall, CHISWICK, W.4  
(give dates)

NAT.:

BORN AT: Dartmouth, Devon.

ON: 28.5.10.

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER:

\*PERSONAL  
DESCRIPTION:

SECURITY  
INFORMATION: 1953 & 1954. Member of the Advisory Council of the  
Theatre Section of the Society for Cultural  
Relations with the U.S.S.R.

**For use of Chief Constable.**

C.C. Ref.:

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. Feb 2013

Continue overleaf if necessary.

\*Personal descriptions, unless specifically asked for, are not required.

Box 500.



## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: P.F. 56,268 Name: REDGRAVE. 32A  
Original in File No.: \* O.F. 50/2. S.C.R. Vol.: 20 Serial: 789a Receipt Date: 16.11.54.  
Original from: F.I.A. Note Under Ref.: ..... Dated: .....  
Extracted on: 30.11.54. by: CAP Section: R.6.

Extract from F.I.A. Note re Committee members of Theatre Section of S.C.R. - 1953/1954. ment Rachel REDGRAVE.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THEATRE SECTION OF S.C.R. - 1953/1954.

Details from "Who's Who in the Theatre".

.....

Rachel KEMPSON.

Born: Dartmouth, Devon on 28.5.10.

Married Michael REDGRAVE. # 56268

Add: Bedford House, Chiswick Mall, W.4.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

*Call 30/11/54*



## EXTRACT

(49864) WT.33778 GP.698

Extract for File No.: P.F. 56,268. Name: REDGRAVE.

Original in File No.: \*O.F. 50/2. Vol.: 20. Serial: 787b. Receipt Date: 9.11.54.

Original from: E.4. Source Report. Under Ref.: 12,510. Dated: 9.11.54.

Extracted on: 10.12.54. by: PEHS. Section: R.6.

Cross reference to copy of the Annual Report of the Society of Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. 1953/54, in which it shows Michael REDGRAVE.CBE, as a member of the Advisory Council of the Theatre Section.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

(A)

✓  
12/12/54

F.A. 12/12/54



**SECRET**

## EXTRACT

(49864) WT.33778 GP.698

P.F. 56,268

REDGRAVE.

31A

Extract for File No.: ..... Name: .....

Original in File No.: \* O.F. 50/2. S.C.R. Vol.: 20 Serial: 787b Receipt Date: 9.11.54.

Original from: F4/MK Source report Under Ref.: 12510 Dated: .....

Extracted on: 30.11.54. by: CAP Section: R.6.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual  
include the name of the file owner

CROSS REFERENCE TO F4/MK/12510 ENCLOSING ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R. SHOWING THAT RACHEL KEMPSON  
IS A MEMBER OF THE 1953/1954 ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE THEATRE SECTION  
OF THE SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R.

L.C. 6  
30/11/54



B.A/MIR



Andrew Rothstein Esq.,  
39, Hillway,  
London, N.6

P19 P.F. 56268.

with B.A.  
6/7/53.

5 5383 S



Letter from Michael Redgrave sent on to you.  
Please make an early appointment next week, to discuss what  
reply should be sent

5 5383 5



How 3592.



Andrew Rothstein, Esq., M.A.,  
Editor,  
The Anglo-Soviet Journal,  
14, Kensington Square, W.8.

2961 NNR 6 2

5 5383 5x



MICHAEL REDGRAVE.

25th June, 1953.

Bedford House,  
Chiswick Mall,  
London. W.4.

Dear Mr. Rothstein,

You are possibly aware that a number of the members of the S.C.R. have received a round circular from the Secretary of the British Society for Cultural Freedom, and I would like to enclose, for your personal consideration only, a copy of my reply to Mr. Ridley and to add, though this is implicit in my second paragraph to him, that Mr. Pritt's implication that all members of the S.C.R. would share his views on Stalin was something more than a tactical blunder. It is true that it is no more than an implication, but you, I am sure, are aware of how powerful implication can be.

The purpose of this letter, then, is to register to you, as Editor, something of my resentment that such an implication should ever have been allowed to be made.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Michael Redgrave.*

Andrew Rothstein, Esq., M.A.,  
Editor,  
The Anglo-Soviet Journal,  
14, Kensington Square, W.8.

5/5383.5x

614/2  
21/7/53



COPY/

Bedford House,  
Chiswick Mall,  
London. W.4.

9th June, 1953.

Dear Mr. Ridley,

With regard to your round letter of May 21st, I would first of all like to know whether this letter expresses the views of your whole Society or of some Committee thereof, or whether you wrote it on your own impulse. This is a very important thing for me to know and I am surprised that your letter did not mention it. I would be grateful if you would let me know this and would also convey the contents of the rest of this letter of mine to your Committee or Council or the chief officers of your Society.

Secondly, I agree with your comments on the tone of Pritt's obituary eulogy. I have fully understood for some time what you are trying to hint in your second paragraph but I am not going to elaborate on that now beyond saying that there are times when a polite hint is less welcome than an unequivocal statement and that this is one of them.

As for the main point of your letter, the connection between my name and members of a "Theatre Section" and Mr. Pritt's words, I think that only a complete political ignoramus would suppose that I necessarily subscribe to Pritt's views. Admittedly there are many political ignorami and I have no doubt that you would count all the names to which you have sent your letter among them, including mine. The whole matter is, however, one about which I have not been entirely thoughtless and I have some time ago decided to let my name stand where it is, believing that in the long run it will do more good than harm.

My chief point, however, is that if you or a Committee or members of the British Society for Cultural Freedom think that those of us who have lent our names to the S.C.R. are foolish and wrong headed to continue to do so, then you should come out with a clear statement of why and wherefore and not mask that statement in terms which relate to one excessively bigoted article.

P.T.O.

5 5383 SX



As I said before, I would be very grateful if you would bring the few points that I have made to the attention of whomever is responsible for sending the round letter and would also kindly inform me who or what section of your Society is responsible.

★ Jasper Ridley, Esq., ★ *2F. L 208/1712*  
★ General Secretary, ★  
★ British Society for Cultural Freedom, ★  
★ 119B, Oxford Street, ★  
★ London. W.1. ★

5 5383.Sx



29a

## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: P.F. 56,268 Name: REDGRAVE.

Original in File No.: O.F. 825 Serial: 9a Vol: - Receipt Date: 15.8.52.

Original from: S.B. Under Ref: 400/52/129. Dated: 13.8.52.

Extracted on: 23.10.52. by: T.B-J. Section: R6.

Ext. from Special Branch report in reply to M.I.5. letter,  
Gen. 207/B.1.0/WHAR of 22.7.52. re Student Movement House,  
ment. REDGRAVE.

.....  
 Student Movement House is a non-residential club open to student visitors from overseas.

When in 1917, the Student Christian Movement decided to found Student Movement House as an International club for men and women students without any discrimination race, nationality or faith, the idea by no means met with universal approval. The present deep interest of British people in the international student world, however, shows the vision and wisdom of the founders of the club.

.....  
Programme during 1950/51

Lectures:

Amongst the many lectures given at S.M.H. were the following

.....  
Readings.

Poetry reading by Michael REDGRAVE.

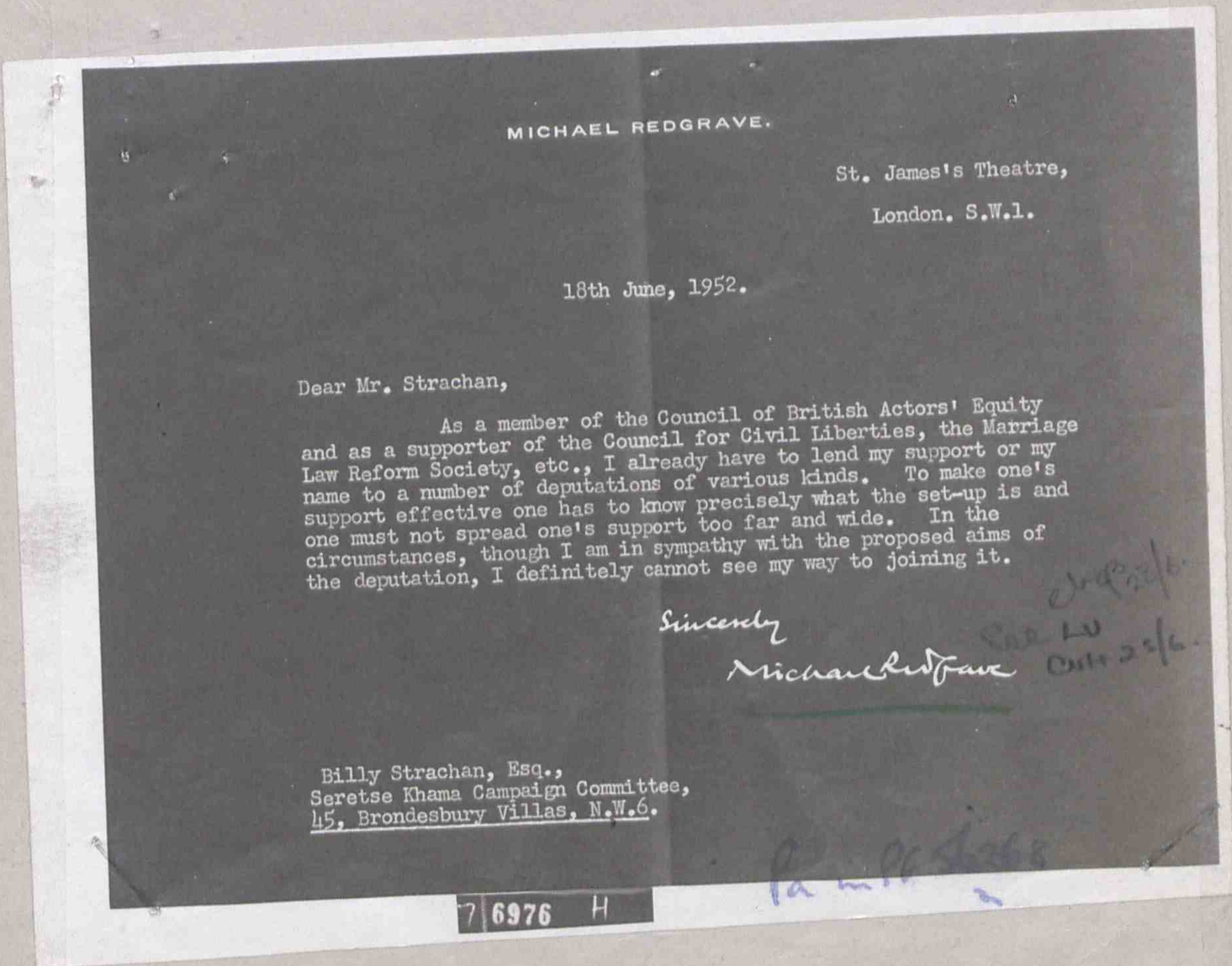
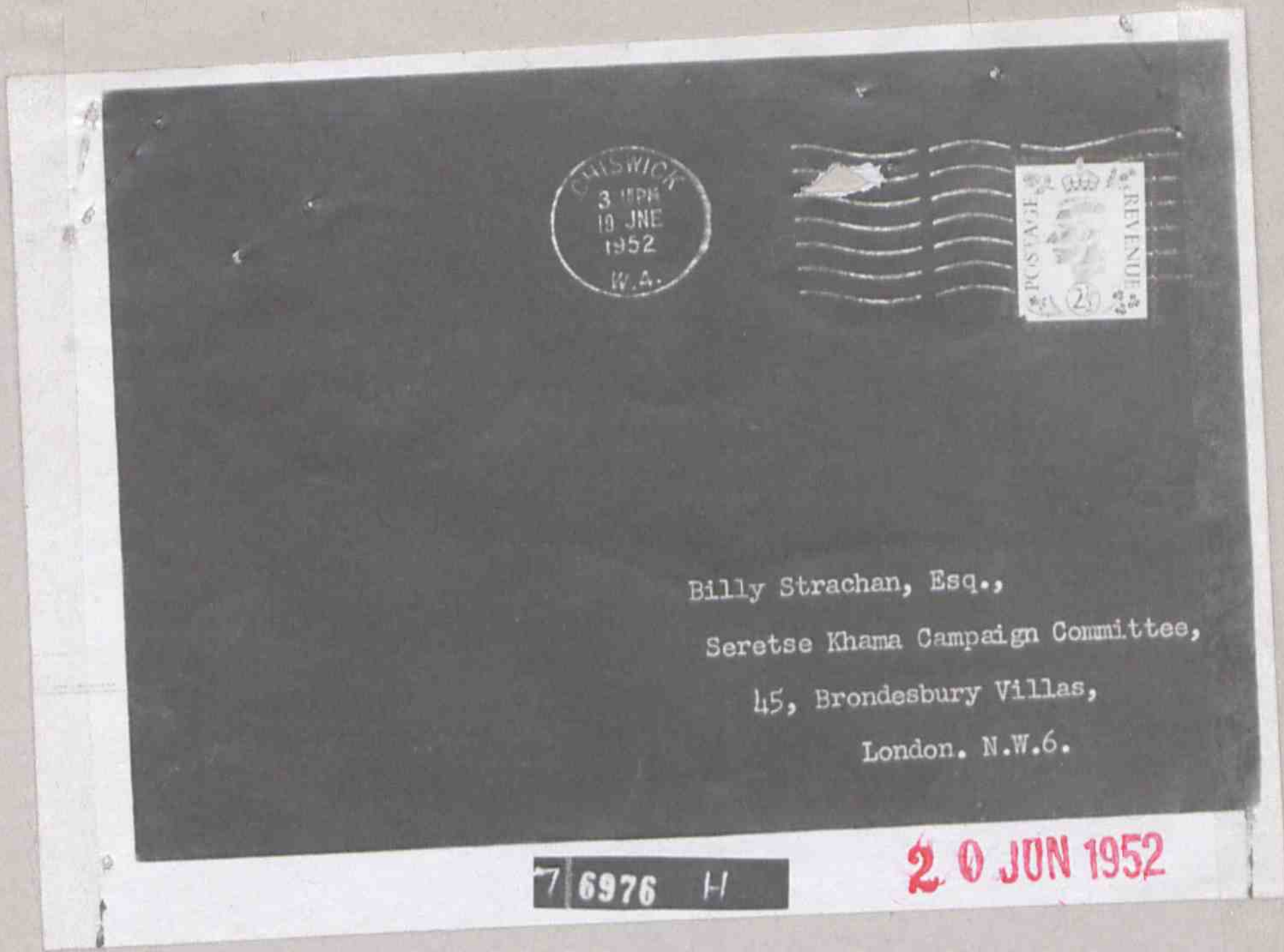
.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

de Ry  
 24-10-52



28a



Dec 1952



27a

E X T R A C T.

Extract for File No. PF 56,268. Name: REDGRAVE. Receipt date: 19.11.51.

Original in File No. OF 17-15. Serial: 342a. Dated : 16.11.51

Original from. Intercept. Under Ref : None. Section: R.6.

Extracted on. 16.4.52. by: BS.

Cross reference from an intercept to Professor BERNAL from  
the Unity Theatre Society Limited, noting from the printed  
heading that the following persons are members of the  
General Council of the Unity Theatre Society Ltd: 1951-1952.

Michael REDGRAVE.

*Wm/Ru  
17/4/52*



Copies in: PF.90,979 - DAVIES.  
✓ PF.56,268 - REDGRAVE.  
PF.41,136 - PASCAL.  
PF.603,875 - CUMMING-BRUCE.  
PF.53,236 - HEINEMANN.

NOTE.

I visited Cambridge on 8th, 11th and 12th October with the object of seeing what useful material on Communism in Cambridge during the early thirties could be gleaned from open sources in Libraries.

Undergraduate magazines seemed the obvious ones to look at first, and I found that all back copies of the "Granta", the "Gownsmen" and the "Cambridge Review" are readily obtainable in the reference library of the Cambridge Union Society, the first two being in a room which is open all the time. The "Cambridge Review" is also on the open shelves, but is in a room which closes at the same time as the library.

Of these three magazines, the "Cambridge Review" is the most useful, because it is more accurate and serious and attracted the young Don who wanted books for review. Also Hugh Sykes DAVIES (PF.90,979) was editor for a spell from 1932. The "Review" is the only one which contains notes on Labour Club meetings. It is essential to know what one is looking for, and the initials of the people concerned, since many reviews and articles are not signed. Anything can be relevant - e.g. reports of A.D.C. (Amateur Dramatic Club) productions - and too much attention should not necessarily be paid to political items. Summaries of Cambridge Union Debates, for instance, proved almost useless, because I assume the real business of politics was transacted elsewhere.

The "Granta" has two series worth looking at - "In Authority" and "The Undergraduate in the Box" - both of which give a slant on the notable undergraduates of the day. The correspondence column is also worth looking at.

The "Gownsmen" has more straight political reporting but struck me as being the least useful, but this may change with editor and period.

The following are typical of what I gleaned from a very rapid review.

- (a) Letter from Donald MACLEAN to the "Granta", now on his file, showing he was undoubtedly a Communist in Cambridge.

/(b)



(b) "Undergraduate in the Box" - one features MACLEAN, another Margot HEINEMANN (FF.53,236) - neither shows up politics particularly, but they indicate the prominence of the people interviewed. One of these articles featured Roualeyn CUMMING-BRUCE (Shrewsbury and Magdalone) who said "I am a Communist". He is presumably identical with the brother of FF.603,875.

(c) The "Cambridge Review" of 10th June, 1931, gives the following details of an A.D.C. production of "Captain Brassbound's Conversion":-

Captain Brassbound - M.S. REDGRAVE (Michael REDGRAVE, FF.56,268, was clearly a leading light in the literary world, although our file on him only begins in 1940).

Producer: - George RYLANDS.

Scenery: - G. de M. BURGESS.

(d) The "Cambridge Review" 13th June, 1930. New book called "The Venture" edited by H.R. FIDDEN (N.T.) and Michael REDGRAVE and containing an article on Cubism by Antony BLUNT was reviewed by Roy PASCAL.

(e) A review in the "Cambridge Review" of 24th February, 1933, of a book entitled "Conservatism in England" by F.J.C. Hearnshaw was obviously written by a Communist and was signed "G.F. de M.B." (BURGESS). The following month the same reviewer dealt with Arthur PONSONBY's "Queen Victoria", but this shows no particular political bias.

I read these magazines from 1929 to 1934 and had the impression that politics only began to rear its head in 1933 with the hunger-marches. Before then, interest was centred on art, especially painting, a subject which concerned Roy PASCAL, Antony BLUNT and Michael REDGRAVE (judging from reviews only).



S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

ENCL 1 Page  
COPY  
7 AUG 1951  
TO BIA  
REF A-56,268

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH,

3rd day of August 1951.

SUBJECT

Michael Scudamore

REDGRAVE.

Reference to Papers

402/44/1539.

With reference to Michael Scudamore REDGRAVE, subject of Special Branch File RF 402/44/1539:-

The above named is a well known stage and screen actor and lives at "Bedford House", Chiswick, Middlesex, and is in possession of N.R.I.C. No:1421/95.

His parents were both actors of international repute and he is believed to have accompanied them when they toured parts of Europe and Australia. His father is believed to have died in Australia when he was about three years old. His mother then brought him back to this country and continued her career as an actress. She appears to have been in a fairly substantial position and was able to send her son to Clifton College, and later to Magdalene College, Cambridge. (1927-30).

After leaving the university, REDGRAVE took up journalism, but was not successful in this sphere. Later, he became a teacher of German and French at Cranleigh College, where he remained for about three years.

REDGRAVE was always interested in the Theatre, and in 1934 he joined the Liverpool Repertory Company. Since that time, with the exception of the war period, he has been continuously connected with the Theatrical profession.

He joined the Navy on the 16th May, 1941, as an ordinary seaman but was invalided out on the 17th December, 1942.

On the 18th July, 1935, REDGRAVE married Rachel KEMPSON, daughter of Eric William Edward KEMPSON, and Beatrice Hamilton, nee ASHWELL, at Dartmouth College Chapel, his wife being the daughter of a former headmaster of Dartmouth College.

They have three children, Vanesse aged 13½, Corin aged 11 and Lynn aged 7½.

15/8/51



At the present time REDGRAVE is appearing in the Festival Season at Stratford on Avon, and will be absent from his London address until October 1951.

During the past nine years REDGRAVE has taken a very active part in Left Wing Cultural Activities. Although he is a very active member of groups connected with Left Wing Policy, it would appear that his interests are in cultural groups rather than in C.P. branch work.

REDGRAVE is known to me and the attached photograph is a good likeness. His description is as follows:-

Age 43; height 6'2"; brown hair; blue eyes; large ears; thick eyebrows; long nose; long face and sallow complexion.

He holds British Passport No: 80820, issued in London on the 28th July, 1945, which he used to travel to Germany to make a film for the Ministry of Information and the War Office. He remained there for six months in 1946.

He has come under Special Branch notice as follows:-

- /41 Endorsed the Peoples Convention. 300/UNC/818.
- 17/3/41 Speaker at a meeting held by the National Council for Civil Liberties, Conway Hall to protest at the BBC ban on certain broadcasters. 400/40/11.
- 18/3/41 Attended the Peoples Convention (London and Home Counties). 400/41/18.
- 10/6/41 Attended National Delegate Conference on the Freedom of the Press, Central Hall. 346/41/18.
- 3/12/42 On the General Council of Unity Theatre Society Limited 1941. 301/GEN/338.
- 27/6/43 Artiste at Albert Hall meeting of National Council of British Unity with the Soviet. 400/42/47.
- 12/11/43 On Committee of Management of Unity Theatre Society Limited. 301/GEN/338.



2/12/43 Mentioned as a contact of Michael WRAY in a report from C.C. Isle of Man. 405/43/1814.

23/12/43 S.B. report on enquiries. (this report has been transferred to 405/43/1786). 405/43/1814<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>

13/3/43 Billed to speak at Marx Commemoration meeting, Cambridge Theatre. 346/41/4.

19/4/44 To give his support at a meeting of N.C.C.L. on "Anti-Semitism in the Polish Forces", Stoll Theatre. 400/44/9.

30/5/44 Elected to the General Council of British Actors Equity Association, at Annual General Meeting, Wardour Hotel. 400/44/27.

30/5/44 Leading member of Actors Group of C.P.G.B. 400/44/45.

27/10/44 Contact of Cultural Groups Committee of the C.P. 400/43/75 (6A)

6/12/45 Patron of Free German League of Culture. 320/FGN/713.

30/12/45 On Committee, Theatre Group Society for C.R. with USSR. 300/UNC/45.

23/12/45 On list of speakers of U.L. Fed'n. Attended Holiday week, Staniforth, Yorks. 301/AFAW/327.

1/1/46 Signatory to an appeal for cash and books on behalf of Council for German Democracy. 320/FGN/689

5/4/46 Signed message in support to League of Cultural for Democratic Renewing of Germany. "

16/12/46 On Committee of Theatre Section S.C.R. with USSR. 1945/46. 300/UNC/713.

X 12/12/49 Member of Theatre Section Committee of Society for Cultural Relations with USSR. 400/49/2(10 A).

*R. L. Hunt*

P.C.

Submitted.

*[Signature]*  
Chief Inspector.

*[Signature]*  
for Chief SUPERINTENDENT.



CONFIDENTIAL

240

2701

PF.56268/B.1.a./FGB.

Deputy Commander,  
Special Branch.

Please refer to your report 400/43/75  
of 2nd October, 1944 about Michael REDGRAVE.

You may be interested to learn that  
"Trybuna Ludu", organ of the Polish United  
Workers' Party, recently published a critique of  
the film "Renegade" and said of REDGRAVE, who  
played the leading role, that he is "the only  
British film star who is a member of the Com-  
munist Party."

REDGRAVE had not come to our notice  
since your report cited above.

F. G. Beith.

27.4.49  
FGB/AC.

~~275~~  
B/17/AC  
28/4/49



78b.

03

B.1.A. - Mrs. Towndrow.

You may like to have the following extract from an article, referring to the British film "Renegade", published in the "Trybuna Ludu" (People's Tribune) of 1.4.49. This publication is the official organ of the Polish United Workers Party.

X "Michael REDGRAVE" X who plays the leading part in this film, is the only British film star who is a member of the Communist Party".

B4C/FCD  
12.4.49.

*F. C. Derbyshire*  
F.C. Derbyshire.

R2  
Amy fr xx B.1.A.

22 APR 1949

15  
B1A/PC  
28/4/49



8

Film

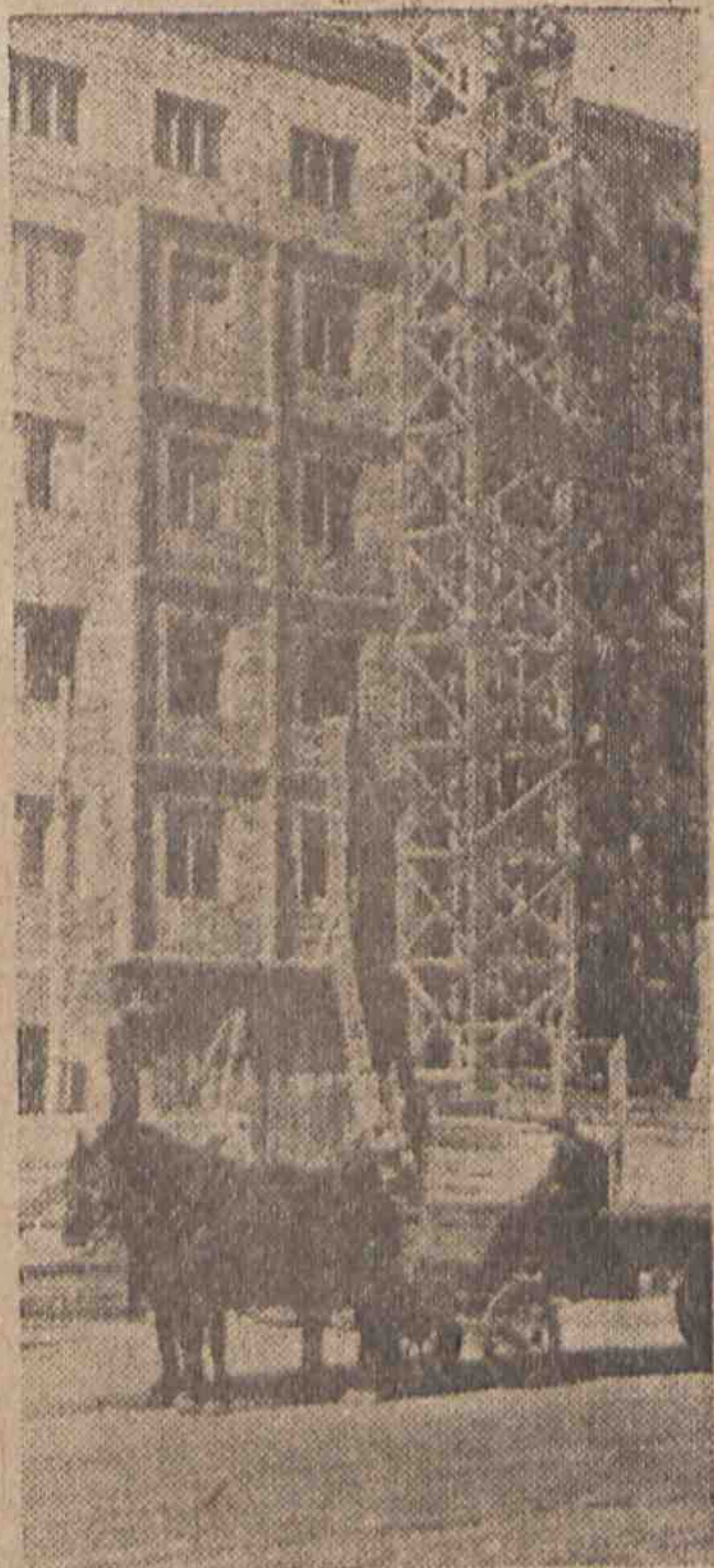
# Renegat



Wśród filmów amerykańskich...



## Z frontu odbudowy



Przy ul. Puławskiej kończy się  
obecnie budowę budynku  
mieszkalnego dla pracowni-  
ków Polskiego Monopolu Sol-

## Z notatnika Warszawy

### Potrzebni specjaliści

Na ostatnim posiedzeniu St. R. N. tow. Dworakowski przytoczył dwa charakterystyczne przykłady stosunku do pracy.

Jedna ze szkół zażądała przysłania specjalisty do zawieszania tablic, druga — do której zwieziono pewną ilość koksu na zimę — musiała zaangażować dodatkowych robotników, aby zrzucili koks do piwnic, ponieważ 5 pracowników fizycznych, zatrudnionych stale przez kierownictwo szkoły, odmówiło wykonania tej pracy, twierdząc, że nie należy to do ich kompetencji. Nie była to zresztą specjalnie trudna praca, gdyż otwór, którym wrzucano koks do piwnicy, był odległy o niewielkie miejsce, w którym koks zrzucano tylko o 5 metrów.

A teraz inny przykład:

W nowo odbudowanym budynku szkolnym przy ul. Noskowskiego, można obserwować od dłuższego czasu, jak pozostawione po zakończeniu lekcji światła pali się całymi godzinami, do późnej nocy. Fakt ten mogą potwierdzić lokatorzy kamienie przy ul. Lwowskiej 3, 5, 7.

Czyżby i tu personel administracyjny, mieszkający w tym budynku nie uzgodnił jeszcze z kierownictwem, co należy do jego kompetencji?



EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: P.F. 56268. Name: REDGRAVE, Michael.

Original in File No.: S.F. 464/73. Serial: 31a. Dated: 2.11.44.

Original from: S.B. Under Ref.: 400/43/75. 27.10.44.

Extracted on: 24.11.44. by: KBM. Section: R.4.

Extract from S.B. report re contacts of the Cultural Groups Committee of the Communist Party.

Information has been obtained that the under-mentioned persons are contacts of the Cultural Groups Committee of the Communist Party:-

.....

REDGRAVE, Michael.  
Stage and film actor.

405/43/1786.

.....

*McGowan 22.11.44*



2/17

PARTICULARS OF AN APPLICANT FOR THE  
ISSUE OF AN AIR MINISTRY PERMIT  
UNDER THE DEFENCE REGULATIONS.

Serial No. ...24189...  
FILE REFERENCE .....

PROVOST MARSHAL  
22 JUL 1944  
AIR MINISTRY

SURNAME

REDGRAVE

SURNAME AT BIRTH (if different)

CHRISTIAN NAMES (in full)

Michael Scudamore.

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

X 20.3.1908 Bristol. X

HEIGHT

PRIVATE ADDRESS

109 Riverside Court, S.W.6.  
Gainsboro' Pictures.

PROFESSION, OCCUPATION OR BUSINESS

British

PRESENT NATIONALITY (by birth,  
marriage or naturalisation)

NATIONALITY AT BIRTH (if different)

George Galsworthy REDGRAVE  
British

FULL NAMES OF FATHER

FATHER'S NATIONALITY AT BIRTH

MOTHER'S " " "

WIFE'S " " "  
HUSBAND'S

REMARKS



NO SECURITY OBJECTION

G. H. SARGANT

P. M. 5. A/FORM 4.  
A. 137.

W  
P



EXTRACT.

Ex t for File No.: PF. 56268. Name: REDGRAVE, Michael.  
Original in File No.: SF. 464/73. C.P.G.B. Cultural Serial: 28a. Dated: 2.6.44.  
Activities.  
Original from: S.B. report. Under Ref.: Dated 30.5.44.  
Extracted on: 23.6.44. by: Tst. Section: R.4.

Extract from Special Branch report on Actors' Group of the  
Communist Party.

"During the course of enquiries it has been ascertained that the under-  
mentioned persons are in touch with the Cultural Groups Committee of the  
Communist Party and are believed to be the leading members of the Actors'  
Group:-

.....  
.....  
Michael REDGRAVE (405/43/1786)  
.....

The Actors' Group appears to be mainly active within the British Actors  
Equity Association" .....

*20.6.44*



R3

PA.

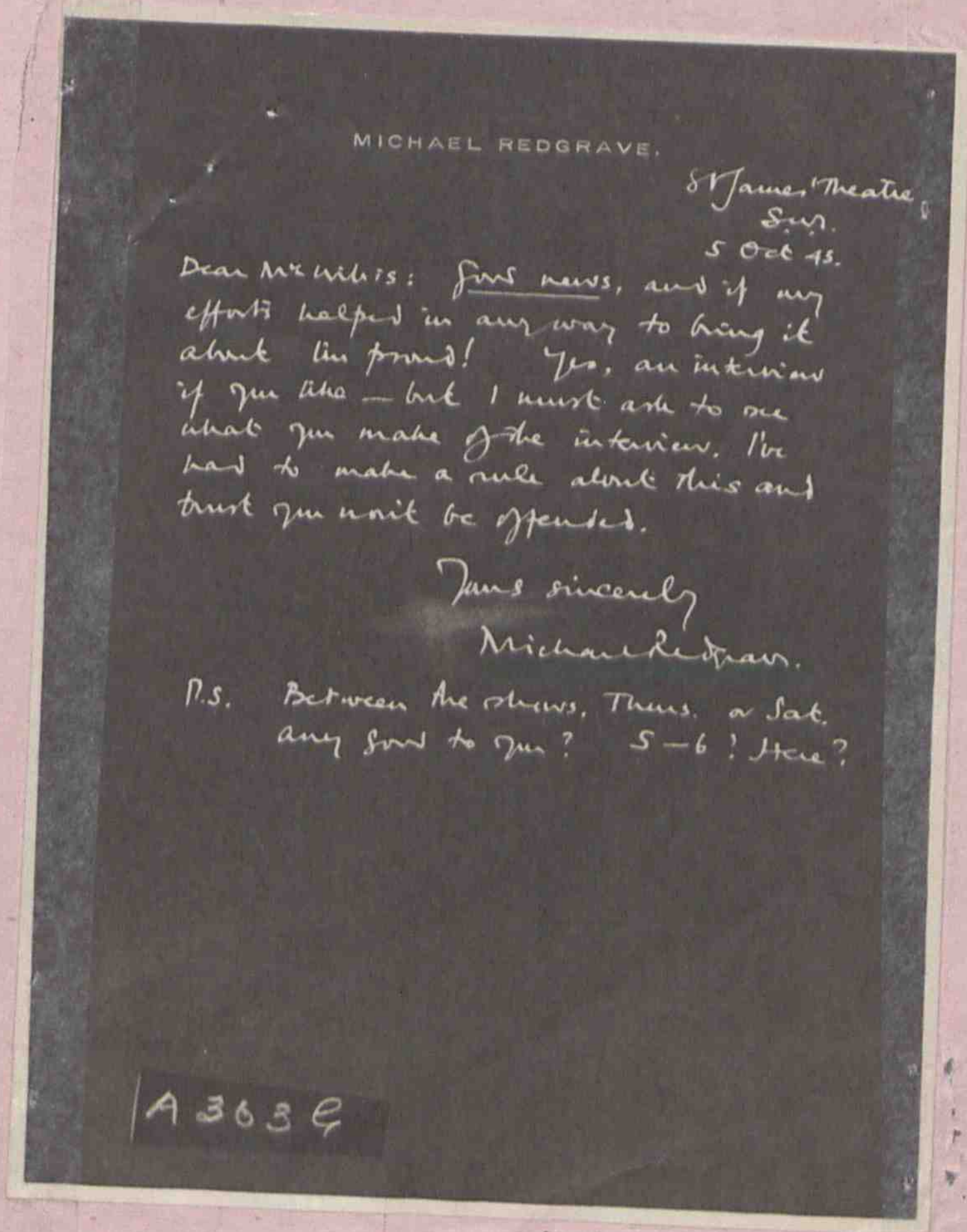
LV. Michael Redgrave.

P. 7. 56268. 19

File  
12/10.



R8





EXTRACT.

18a

Extract for File No.: PF 56268 Name: REDGRAVE  
Original in File No.: SF 460/London/11 Serial: 161a Dated: 29.6.43  
Original from: S.B. 28.6.43 Under Ref.: no ref.  
Extracted on: 10.8.43 by: JMB Section: R4

W/C

S.B. report re demonstration held at the Royal Albert Hall on 27.6.43, and organised by the National Council for British-Soviet Unity and Russia Today Society, in support of the British-Soviet Alliance and to mark the 2nd Anniversary of the Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union.

.....

..... the Finale was in the form of a recitation entitled "Freedom on the March" rendered by Michael REDGRAVE, .....

.....

W/C  
11/8/43



172

M.F.S.



H. McShane,  
C.P.G.B.  
14, Princes Square,  
GLASGOW, C.I.

2a  
5a  
132 LV Reg. St  
1014

Redgrave  
25.0

# Daily Worker

KEABLE PRESS LTD.  
Directors:  
WILLIAM I. DAY  
(Secretary)  
W. G. KEABLE  
Telephone:  
TERminus 2271 (4 lines)

Swinton House • 324 Gray's Inn Road • London, W.C.1

LB/ 25th May, 1943.

H. McShane,  
C.P.G.B.  
14, Princes Square,  
GLASGOW, C.I.

P.F. 56268  
REDGRAVE

Dear Comrade,

We have forwarded the letter to  
Michael Redgrave, enclosed with yours  
of the 22nd.

The address we obtained was:

c/o. 2, Windmill Road,  
Croydon,  
Surrey.

You may like to know this.

Yours fraternally,

*[Signature]*

Editorial Department.

**GW.13**

128  
PA for  
PF 56268  
+ with  
address for  
his card  
only  
Pm  
l.v.

PS  
30/5

31.5.43

~~DAR 8~~  
7643

F-2a  
PF  
3/61



Betty SHIELDS COLLINS is in touch with Jack MENDELSON. She is reported to have discussed with him the question of Michael REDGRAVE as reading the declaration at the Rally. She was very strongly against his appearance, presumably because of his notariety in connection with the Peoples Convention.

4.10.41.

Original in SF 464/66 18 Link Vol. Y Box 605 Held F.2.a.

NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN WITHOUT REFERENCE TO MISS CREEDY.

1/10/10

✓ Shd  
22.7.41



CROSS REFERENCE.SUBJECT: REDGRAVE Michael

Report re Communist matters (Source unknown). 4.4.41.

The following information has been received from an informant:

---

Reports are being circulated by the extremists to the effect that the B.B.C. is employing detectives to watch the political tendencies of their artists and workers. A certain Michael REDGRAVE reported to the Communist H.Q. that he went to the office of the People's Convention to obtain some literature, and soon after two officials of the B.B.C. called at his flat and told him that they knew of his connection with the Reds, so he presumes that he was followed. REDGRAVE was told that he would be banned from the B.B.C.'s broadcasting service.

---

Original in..... S.F.460/London/1. .... dated..... 4.4.41.

S. Form 81

RL. 30.5.41.



150

P.F. 56268

C R O S S   R E F E R E N C E .

18.3.41

SUBJECT: REDGRAVE

Extract from S.B. report on "A delegate Conference" termed  
"The London and Home Counties Regional Convention", held at  
the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, W.C. on the 16th March, 1941,  
concerning the People's Convention.

.....  
PAPWORTH then appealed for a collection and this realised  
£250.2.7½d. It was announced that Phil CARDEW had donated £10.10.0  
and Mr. & Mrs. Michael REDGRAVE £15.15.0.

REDGRAVE and his wife who sat immediately in front of the  
platform, clapped all the speakers irrespective of the import of  
their remarks; appeared bewildered by the proceedings; and took  
no part in the voting.  
.....

Original in...S.F..464/59.Box.277a.....dated18.3.41.....

S. Form 81

M.L.W. 12.9.41

S.B.  
13/9/41

✓G.H.  
13/5/41



12.7.41

P.F.56268.

14a

C R O S S R E F E R E N C E.

REDGRAVE.

SUBJECT:- REDGRAVE, Michael.

From S.B. report on meeting held under auspices of National  
Council for Civil Liberties.

.....  
Michael REDGRAVE then read his short speech in which he described how he had been seen by officials at the B.B.C. and informed that he was banned from broadcasting. He stated that although this had occurred, he knew that the majority of people in England would say that whatever his personal opinions might be, he should be allowed to continue to earn part of his living by broadcasting. He said he was very pleased to have shared the front page headline with "Moscow warns Bulgaria". People from Wales, Scotland, and Ireland had written sympathetic letters to him and this was some indication of what the general public was thinking of the action taken by B.B.C. "The progress of the modern world is something of vital interest to us all" he said "and as we are described as the last outpost of liberty in Europe, we must fight fascism, always and now"

Original in.....S.F.464/43. vol.3. 121a.....dated.....1213.41.

S. Form 81.

M.K.L.  
11.4.41.

12/6/41



Mr. Hollis  
B4A.

FROM THE PRESS SECTION  
-----oOo-----

1301

133

Date. 8... 8... 4!....

DAILY SKETCH.

## Redgrave Says: 'No \*Pacifist\*'

From *Michael Redgrave*,  
famous British stage and  
screen actor.

To the Editor, "Daily Sketch":

SIR: As a result of recent events  
I find that there is a belief in  
many quarters that I am a  
pacifist, or that I am not in sup-  
port of the national war effort.



Both assump-  
tions are false.

I am not a  
pacifist and am  
expecting  
shortly to join  
the Navy, for  
which I have  
been provision-  
ally accepted.

I am deter-  
minedly anti-  
Fascist.

I think that  
the war must  
now be fought,  
and must be  
won, if the kind  
of views which  
I hold, and the

ideals of the majority of our  
people are to survive.

Now that is categorical enough,  
and though I know that false  
beliefs die hard, that statement  
should at least make it difficult  
for anyone in the future to repeat  
blandly that I am a pacifist.

### Perfectly Clear

I am sending a copy of this  
statement to the chairman of the  
People's Convention, so that my  
position may be perfectly clear.

But there appears also to be a  
widespread belief that actors and  
actresses have no right to any  
views at all on any public or poli-  
tical matters. If they are to be  
permitted to hold opinions, these  
must not go beyond the common-  
places of gossip and uncritical  
agreement with orthodox views.

I believe that one of the things  
for which we are fighting is just  
this right of the individual—  
whether actor, journalist, engineer  
or miner—to think independently  
and express himself freely on all  
the public issues which concern  
him.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL REDGRAVE.

SECTION NOTES:-

Redgrave M.

List 168(64) 419a

OF 17/15. Vol 2. C2.

SP 164/59 C2. v. 2 v. 3.

Feb.

15/3/41

10/6/41  
25.6.44

11/12/41



PR 56268 120 12

COPY

OL. For:

Original filed in: O.F. 17/15 67b.  
Report re Cocktail party held in London.

*No mention*  
Miss Paxy THORNHILL. Member C.P.G.B. Reported on previously by M/11.  
Michael REDGRAVE. Reported on previously by M/11. He is very much "approved of" by Party members. Presumed not actual member of C.P.G.B. but not known.

*Pl extract to OF 17/15 (unity ph)*  
*One line 4/1*  
It was stated that REDGRAVE'S wife, name believed to be Rachael KEMPSON, is to play the lead in the UNITY THEATRE Pantomime when it goes on tour. REDGRAVE himself is believed to be making a record of some sort for a Communist propaganda organisation, but information on this point is vague. It certainly seems that REDGRAVE is now firmly in the clutches of the UNITY Communist group and he seems to be revelling in it.

*During the course of the evening*  
During the course of the evening Jasha SHAPIRO put through or received a call from I. NATHANI, reported previously by M/11 as being a Communist barrister and a friend of the TRILLINGS. This conversation included references to M. MAISKY which apparently troubled SHAPIRO because he confessed afterwards that he was a bit drunk and perhaps had said too much over the phone.

Perhaps you could let us know if you have anything further on NATHANI? It will be remembered that, in a previous M/11 report SHAPIRO was reported as having a confidential job in a Government Aircraft factory somewhere in the Midlands.

B.5b. (London).  
27.2.41.

(M/11).

12/6/41



h=56268

11a

COPY

OL. For: P.F. 56268 REDGRAVE.

Original filed in: O.F. 17/15 Vol. 2. 66a.

B.4a. Mr. Hollis.

PA in file in  
Unity Theatre  
3 10/2/41  
X Leo Bae

66a

It is reported that Michael REDGRAVE was present, with his wife, at Unity Theatre on 3.2.41. He was very popular and appeared to be enjoying himself immensely.

B.5b. (London).  
3.2.41.

(M/11).

GPP  
18.3.41

11a  
12/6  
11



COPY

OL.For: P.F. 56268 REDGRAVE.

Original filed in: O.F. 17/15. Vol. 2. 63a.

Copy in P.F. 56810 DAVIES.

H. la. Mr. Hollis.

re: UNITY THEATRE.

After the close of the Unity Theatre Pantomime performance on Sunday 26.1.41. ANN DAVIES made a speech appealing for action against the Daily Worker ban. She urged every member to raise the issue in whatever place and organisation they could.

She read messages from various people sympathising with the Party in their present distress, among which was one from Michael REDGRAVE. This was sent with the purpose of being read at Unity Theatre and stated that REDGRAVE was fully in sympathy with them and had telegraphed the Home Secretary to protest against the ban. This seems to be sufficient proof of the reality of REDGRAVE's pro-Communist sympathies and was greeted by wild applause by the assembled members.

ANN DAVIES, in her speech, hinted very strongly that every member should make a point of taking "CHALLENGE" since they would find in that paper articles which were "not only for youthful readers". It seems therefore that the inference is that the functions of the "D.W." are to be taken over primarily by "CHALLENGE".

Our source states that ANN DAVIES was in possession of a copy of the illegal "D.W."

It also appears that ANN DAVIES has a house in Marks Crescent (No 10?) which is full of Party members and is a hotbed of active Communism. Unity casts also rehearse there from time to time.

B.5b. (London).  
27.1.41.

(H/LL).

- SHS  
a) Please extract for Challenge.  
b) card Redgrave  
c) Let me see if I can find Ann DAVIES - is she  
was Ann O'CONNOR? - No. I'm sure she's not  
Ann O'CONNOR - whose PT  
was buried, anyway!

LD 3  
BHA 30/1/41

18.2.41

Now established that Ann DAVIES is Anna  
DAVIES!

LD 3  
BHA 3/4/41



C R O S S   R E F E R E N C E

PF 56268

9a

SUBJECT: Michael REDGRAVE

B.5.b report dated 26.11.40, in reply  
to query re the alleged Communist leanings of  
Michael REDGRAVE :-

Our source confirmed your information that  
REDGRAVE was worried about the appearance of his  
name in the Peoples Vigilance Committee Manifesto  
but attributed it to worry on account of his  
political leanings being publicised. He stated  
that REDGRAVE was, in his opinion, not the sort  
of man to sign a document without knowing what it  
was about and thought that he was too intelligent  
a person not to realise the implications of the  
Peoples Vigilance Movement.  
On the whole, however, the impression is that your  
information is the more correct and based on greater  
knowledge. Our source is endeavouring to find out  
more when the occasion arises.

PTO

Original in .....SF.464/59.....74a..... dated .....as above.....

FH 19.7.41

*[Handwritten signature and date 20.6.41]*



Further information from our source about Michael REDGRAVE is that his Left-Wing leanings may be partly the result of his association with a West End actor by the name of Dyle (who played in "Idiot's Delight" in London) and who is alleged to have definite Communist sympathies. Our source is also of the opinion that Redgrave's association with Herbert Marshall may have had some Left Wing influence on his opinions.



SECRET.

S.F. 464/59/B.4

B.5.b.

With reference to your note of 14.11.40., I am rather surprised to see that you think Michael REDGRAVE has an inward leaning towards serious Communism. Information I have received from private sources has indicated that REDGRAVE has no interest or knowledge of Communism and certainly he made a fool of himself to the reporter of, I think, the Daily Express who interviewed him after he signed the People's Vigilance Committee manifesto. I should like to hear if you get any further information about REDGRAVE.

B.4.  
16.11.40.

Previously filed in SF. 464/59 v.2. ~~67a~~ 67a.

1049.  
11.12.40



C R O S S R E F E R E N C E

SUBJECT:- Michael REDGRAVE.

In a minute from B.5b to B.4a re the Manifesto of the Peoples Convention on which, it was stated, appeared the names of Michael REDGRAVE & Lew STONE, the two latter were reported to be in a considerable state of perturbation and alarm, due to the fact that their names were printed in the Manifesto, whereas they apparently understood that their names would not appear in print.

Naturally, however, this does not for one moment mean that either STONE or REDGRAVE do not hold Communist sympathies or wish to retract their signatures to the original Manifesto.

Original in.....S.F. 464/59 vol. 2. 65y.....dated..14.11.40..

S. Form 81.

RdeK.  
29.3.41.



C R O S S R E F E R E N C E

SUBJECT:- Michael REDGRAVE.

Source: Minute, dated 14.11.40, from B.5b(London) to B.4a, Mr. Hollis.

"It is reported that the Peoples Vigilance Committee is making great efforts to secure a "record" attendance at their Convention to be held in Manchester in January. A circular has been drafted by them, containing the names of many of their most influential supporters; among them figure the names of Lew STONE and Michael REDGRAVE, the stage and film actor.

"An informant who knows REDGRAVE personally states that the inclusion of his name in the Circular is no indication of any temporary dabbling with Left Wing politics but rather the outward sign of his inward leaning towards serious Communism."

Original in.....S.F. 464/59 vol. 2. 65a.....dated.....14.11.40.

S. Form 81.

RdeK  
29.3.41.



J.E.M.

COPI

For: P.F. 56268 REDGRAVE

Original filed in: O.F. 100/1 V.1. 22x

B4<sup>a</sup>  
B.4a. Mr. Hollis. 22x

With reference to the attached Manifesto of the Peoples Convention:-

This is not the latest Manifesto, which includes more names, but it is hoped that the latter will soon be forthcoming.

As stated in our previous report on the Manifesto, you will notice the names of MICHAEL REDGRAVE and LEW STONE. It appears, according to JACK DEARLOVE, that both these men are in a considerable state of perturbation and alarm, due to the fact that their names were printed in the Manifesto, whereas they apparently understood that their names would not appear in print. LEW STONE, in particular, is very alarmed.

This does not for one moment mean that either STONE or REDGRAVE do not hold Communist sympathies or wish to retract their signatures to the original Manifesto.

It is stated that BEN LEVY (also the subject of previous reports from us) has signed the Manifesto and that his name has been allowed to appear in print, a fact which has caused him considerable alarm.

PAXY THORNHILL gave confirmation of BEN LEVY's Communist leanings when she admitted that he could not do a great deal of open work for them, but that nevertheless he was "a good man". It is admitted, too, that CONSTANCE CUMINGS' sympathies are not in particular with any Left Wing movement but only as a result of her husband's urging.

DEARLOVE indicated that Transport House was in opposition to the holding of a Peoples Convention but had so far done nothing. He had a real respect, however, for the "obstructionist methods" of the Police and Authorities who only gaoled and fined C.P. members for obstructing the highway, etc, and did not send C.P. leaders for trial. From his comments, our observer drew the inference that the C.P. is feeling the pinch and is not inclined to underrate the astuteness of the Authorities.

B.5b. (London).  
14.11.40.

368 Signal  
123 CP members (M/11).



419A

PA

64

L 168/15 (D.S.C.L.)

13<sup>th</sup>

November, 1940.

Dear Jardine-Brown,

Michael REDGRAVE.

Many thanks for yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, enclosing a news-cutting regarding the above-named which I return as requested.

Beyond the fact that he rather made a fool of himself when he signed the manifesto referred to, about which he appeared to know very little, we know nothing to his detriment and see no objection to his employment as proposed.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) S.C. Strong.

Jardine-Brown, Esq.,  
B.B.C.,  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place, S.W.1.

✓ 25-6-40

7.12.40

Ext 148



N 1.1a

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House, London, W. 1

TELEPHONE: WELBECK 4468 TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS, LONDON

Reference: AL/RJB

29th October, 1940

Dear Strong,

SECRET

I enclose a cutting in regard to Michael Redgrave which I shall be grateful if you will return in due course. I shall be glad of your advice as to whether or not it is wise for us to employ Michael Redgrave for broadcasting. I may say that he is both a useful and popular personality in the programmes and a ban on his services might be against the public interest in view of Redgrave's big following among film 'fans' and the youth of this country.

Yours sincerely,

R. Jardine

Major S.C. Strong M.B.E.,  
Box No. 500,  
G.P.O.,  
Oxford.

BG  
1 encl.

W. H. L.  
20.10.40



1a  
From Sunday Despatch of 29.9.40.

COPY.

MICHAEL REDGRAVE WANTS A "PEOPLE'S PEACE."

But he does not say what it is  
all about.

Michael Redgrave, one of our most brilliant stage and screen actors,  
has other interest.

His name appears in the list of signatories to a manifesto issued  
by a body called "People's Vigilance Committee," of which the chairman is Mr.  
Harry Adams, London Organiser of the Building trade workers, and the honorary  
treasurer Mr. D.N. Pritt, K.C., M.P.

The manifesto, which is signed by 349 others, summons a "People's  
Convention" for next January. Among the objects of this convention are to  
be the provision of adequate air raid precautions and deep shelter; friendship  
with the Soviet Union, and the formation of a People's Government, "to bring  
about a People's Peace.".....

.....

Mr. Redgrave said: "I don't think the two could be carried on together,  
and I have no intention at all of entering politics.

This manifesto was rbought to me and I found myself in agreement with  
its objects - so I signed."....."I have long been a Socialist and I have  
never concealed it. I have mentioned it to interviewers, but they have  
never printed what I have said on that subject.".....

✓